

The Boys Bugle

Calling all young men to the service of Christ
Vol. 3 Number 2

Summer 2003



Welcome to the Boys Bugle

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Subscription Information:

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Special Want List

Interviews for The Calling of Page.
Articles and poems about TV.
Letters of all kinds.
Good suggestions.
Your prayers
The dead line for the next issue is:
July 31
Thank-you for contributing.

On the Cover

Top picture: Rosenbarker's Ford 8N tractor with a dirt rake. They were using the tractor to rake the ground smooth around Robby Hall's new kennel.

Bottom picture: Merle plowing with his "new" tractor.



Editor's Desk



Dear Boys,

I want to tell you the story of how God has healed my back.

When I was about 9 years old, one summer day I was helping unload a load of hay. In my absent-mindedness, I stepped off the side of the wagon. I fell about 10 ½ ft to the driveway below. I was not hurt except that my arm hurt for a few hours.

Ever since that accident, I had back problems every now and then. Pretty often, it greatly hindered me from working. One spring I was not able to work for 2 weeks. I had to be very careful that I did not lift anything that was too heavy, or else I'd hurt because of it.

I cried out for God to heal me. And He did, in His own way. It has been over a year now that I have not had any back problems that stopped me from working. Although there have been times in the last year when I abused my back,

(did things that I shouldn't have), and it did slow me down. My back recovers much faster now than it used to. I am very thankful for a good back. I think that God used my bad back for my good. There were times when The Boys Bugle would not have got finished on time if I would have not been forced to stop working.

Praising the Lord,
Melvin Martin

“And Jesus said to them, Because of your unbelief. For truly I say to you, If you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you shall say to this mountain, Move from here to there. And it shall move. And nothing shall be impossible to you.” Matthew 17:20

Who supports The Boys Bugle?

God does. If it weren't for God's support, The Boys Bugle would not be.

The Boys Bugle is a ministry of the Parishville Christian Church. We believe the Bible and try to live by its truths. It is our Creator's love letter to us so that we may know how to live abundantly.

Our goal is to proclaim the good news to the lost, (Matthew 28:18-20), and to encourage

Christians in correct doctrine, to reprove, to correct, to instruct in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works, (2 Timothy 3:16-17), and that we may be blessed of the Lord, (Romans 4:8, Ephesians 1:3).

The readers are also a big contributor.



Some Thoughts on Courtship

From a girl's perspective

By Dawn Martin

“Will I get married?” is a question you may have asked yourself. Marriage is a good thing. God said it is; however, if you have not found your fulfillment in the pleasures of God and others outside of marriage you won't have it in marriage either.

What should be your GOAL? I challenge you to make your life goal an ever-deepening love relationship with Christ. Learn to know, serve, and love Him. Become one with Him. Let following Him be your ambition in life. Unless this is your basis and goal in life, you will not be happy. NO, not even, if you do marry. All other goals in relationship to marriage, single hood, or any other pursuit must fit into the framework of the GOAL. With a foundation like this, you can live life to its fullest—following, obeying, and delighting in your Lover right now in your single hood and later in marriage if that is where He leads you. There is a security and joy in knowing that God is the one leading you, and not your emotions, for as we know, following our feelings can get us into big trouble.

It is normal, as a young woman, to be attracted to young men. That attraction can be good, beautiful, and right in its proper time and place. In God's will it can lead to marriage and the establishment of a beautiful picture of Christ and His Bride, the Church. You must closely guard this natural attraction though, because it is very possible to be attracted to a man whom you would not consider marrying, such as an unbeliever. I think it is very important to recognize

these attractions/crushes, and take them to the Lord and seek Him diligently about it. Even if the young man who has attracted your attention is a godly, honorable, available fellow, you have no right to claim him emotionally as yours until he has in fact become yours. Because girls can be so easily attached emotionally to a young man, I think this is an area that needs special caution. Attractions/crushes make it more difficult to see true character, to notice things like habits, attitudes, actions toward others, interests, etc. Because marriage is a very serious commitment, all your considerations for courtship must be based on reality and not on your dreams or infatuations.

If your focus is on serving God and others in every way you can, and not on finding a mate, you will be a blessing and you will be enriched and blessed. I think an added benefit is that you are then free to learn to know others for who they really are.

Another area to think about in your relationships with young men is your actions toward them. Your thoughts will affect how you act. You will bless them if you are modest. Modesty is more than just dress. Be careful to not flirt with them. Do you want a young man to become interested in you because of a false sense of closeness generated by your attention toward him—you know, your special smiles, being beside him, singling him out for special attention, etc.? Let him rather get to know you as a friend and sister. If he is an honorable fellow, I think, he will appre-

ciate you for not distracting him that way. In addition, when you are being a friend to all, you will see opportunities for service that would escape your notice if you allowed your focus to be on Mr. Special-to-You.

Courtship/dating is a serious relationship: don't enter it lightly. Do not court/date anyone whom you know you could not marry. Do take into consideration what significant people in your life (such as parents, close friends, people who know both of you) have to say about the relationship/person. They may have some very good advice for you. Perhaps they may be able to see important issues that have escaped your observations. Don't feel that anyone who has a concern is just trying to mess up your plans or trying to control you. That may be the motive; but, more likely it is that they care enough about you and your happiness to speak to you about it. I would even say it might be good to actively seek out the advice of others. In addition, notice how your friend responds to the concerns of others about your relationship. If he will not seriously consider the advice, gets angry about it, or has an 'its not your business, I'll do what I want to' attitude, you had better take notice.

Remember that courtship/dating is a time for getting to know each other so a wise, mature decision can be made about marriage. How can you learn to know someone? Is it by spending a lot of time together? You do need to be together. You need to be more than just together, you need to communicate. Two people can spend a lot of time together and not know each other. A courting/dating couple's social life should not be totally centered on themselves. I've

seen couples that in a group must always be beside each other, talking to each other. It is as if they are the only ones there. It is a danger signal of immaturity. It is not love. It is selfishness and insecurity. It is possessiveness. Possessiveness in courtship often leads to abuse in marriage; so, beware if your boyfriend acts as if he owns you. You, too, need to evaluate your attitudes and actions toward him. What happens if someone 'interrupts' you? Is your friend just as ready to help, talk with, and socialize with others as he is with you? If there is an inconsistency in his actions between you and others, you would be wise to notice it. How he treats others is probably his real character. How do both of you respond when you can't spend time together? Don't be in a rush to get close to your friend. Relationships take time to grow. Prematurely getting close physically and emotionally will hinder your ability to learn to know him. You will learn more about your boyfriend if you are not glued to his side, focusing all your attention on him. Notice how he relates to others. Watch his responses. Be aware of his attitudes. Observe, observe, observe. Remember that a courtship is to learn to know each other so a decision can be made about marriage. Remember that even courtships that end in a negative decision have successfully completed their work.

Another thing about spending time together—think about the amount of time and the setting of your gatherings. Do you need to spend hours alone with him? I don't think so. Any private time should be in a setting where you are very accountable, like in a room with the doors open, outside with others near-

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The Old Time Farmer

Taken from, "The Farmers', Gardeners', and Stock-Raisers' Guide." (1850)

Often have we seen, that what we considered at the time as a sore disappointment, has proved in the issue to be a	merciful Providence; and that, if what we once eagerly desired had been	obtained, it would have been so far from making us happy, that it would have produced our ruin.
<h2>The Fragrance of Flowers</h2>		
<p>It has been stated that the fragrance of flowers depends on the volatile oils they contain; and these oils, by their constant evaporation, surround the flower with a kind of odorous atmosphere, which, at the same time that it entices larger insects, may probably preserve the parts of fructification from the ravages of the smaller ones. Volatile oils, or odorous substances, seen particularly destructive of these minute insects and animalcule, which feed on the substance of vegetables.</p>		
<h2>How to be a Good Farmer</h2>		
<p>Here is the secret of good farming. You cannot take from the land more that you restore to it, in some shape or other, without ruining it, and so destroying your capital. Different soils may require different modes of treatment and cropping, but in every variety of soil these are the golden rules to be observed: Drain until you find that the water that falls from heaven does not stagnate on the soil, but runs through it and off it freely. Turn up and till the land until your foot sinks into a loose powdery loam, through which the air and heat will readily penetrate. Let no weed occupy the place where a useful plant could possibly grow. Collect every particle of manure that can be obtained, whether liquid or solid. Let nothing on the farm go to waste. Put in your crops in that course which experience has shown to lead to success in their growth, and to an enrichment and not impoverishment of the land. Give every plant room to spread its roots in the soil, and leaves in the air.</p>		
<p>Prosperity is the worst enemy that men usually have.</p>		

Young People of the Bible

A Series of Bible Character Stories that teach a lesson.

Mephibosheth

Hope for the Helpless

After his victory over Goliath, David spent several years of his life hiding from Saul, who wanted to kill him. Saul and Jonathan were killed in battle with the Philistines (1 Samuel 31), and David became king over the tribe of Judah (2 Samuel 2:4). For the next seven years there was war between Saul's sons and followers and David's army. Finally, when Saul's son, Ishbosheth, was killed, all the tribes of Israel made David their king (2 Samuel 5:1-4).

Sometime later, David asked if any of Saul's descendants were still living so he could show him kindness because of the love David had had for Jonathan. The only one to be found was Mephibosheth, Jonathan's son (2 Samuel 9:1-3). Mephibosheth had been crippled since the age of five. His nurse had dropped him while fleeing from their home when news came of Jonathan's death. Even though Mephibosheth was lame, David restored to him all of Saul's and Jonathan's property and invited him to eat at the royal table. And ". . . **Mephibosheth, said the king, he shall eat at my table, as one of the king's sons**" (2 Samuel 9:11).

David is often called a type of Christ, and this incident with Mephibosheth is typical of Christ's attitude towards sinners. David had suffered much from Mephibosheth's grandfather. Sometimes a new king would put to

death all the relatives of a former king so that there would be no chance of those relatives plotting to regain the throne. But David treated Mephibosheth kindly because of love for him and his father. The Lord Jesus suffered at the hands of sinners. God could have judged us all because of our wickedness, but he made a way of salvation for us through the death of the Lord Jesus.

Mephibosheth was lame and could not work for David in any way. Just so, there is no way we can earn our salvation, for we are helpless sinners. We must accept it as a free gift from God, just as Mephibosheth accepted the kindness and hospitality of David. Mephibosheth ate with David as one of the king's sons. Those of us who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour become sons of God (John 1:12) and are seated together with Christ in heaven—in the eyes of God (Ephesians 2:6).

Suppose Mephibosheth had been too proud to accept David's generosity. He would have remained poor and helpless the rest of his life. If anyone refuses to accept the gift of eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ, he misses out on the joy of knowing Christ in this life and is eternally separated from Him after leaving this life. Suppose Mephibosheth had refused to recognize David as king and had tried to gain some support for himself as

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The Calling of:

Darren Strubhar

1. Tell us about yourself.

My name is Darren Strubhar. I am twenty years old, I am five feet nine inches tall, and have reddish hair and hazel eyes.

2. Tell us about your family.

There are twelve in my family: My parents, Marvin and Linda, both age 48; Angela, age 24; Brian, age 23; Carrie, age 22; And me (Darren), age 20; Edwin, age 16; Faith, age 14; Grace, age 13; Howard, age 9; Ivanna, age 8; and Joel, age 6. Note that we are named in alphabetical order.

3. What is it like where you live?

We live in the Idaho panhandle, about twenty miles east of Coeur d'Alene. There are a lot of mountains; and of course, it is very beautiful. There is a lot of woodland in this area with plenty of wildlife. The weather is usually nice in the summer, and in the winter we usually get a fair amount of snow. Spring, well we get our share of rain, and fall is pretty pleasant.

4. Tell us about your schooling experience.

I was schooled at home all of my schooling years. When I was about fourteen, we decided to build a house. My Dad thought I would learn more skills important to life while building a house, than I would from my books. Since then, I've been very busy, and don't have a lot of time for books, but I still enjoy learning. Sometimes I'm reminded that, as our neighbor man said, school is all right if it doesn't get

in the way of your education.

5. Tell us about your faith.

As near as I can remember my desire to follow the Lord started when I was about six or seven, but I never made a commitment to the Lord until age eight. After a little while, I backslid and allowed the Devil to have a hold in my heart and mind, which I found comes out in our actions if we continue to let him have place. At this point in my life, Christ didn't seem to mean

very much to me, and I didn't have a very strong desire to follow the Lord, although I did still claim to be a Christian. During this time in my life, anger had a big hold on me. It seems like a good bit of the time I was angry at someone or something. There were also other things involved in the way I was heading. One of these is the people and/or friends I chose to be around.

This went on for about four or five years. Then, when I was fourteen the Lord got hold of my life, turned me around, and changed my life completely. After this, the Lord continued to work on me, and I realized I needed to tell my Dad some things. The Lord then prompted me to make things right with some other people. Soon after this, I made a vow to the Lord that I would read my Bible every day, which I believe, has been a real blessing to me. I am now reminded of some verses which seem fitting: "**... forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the**



high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

Phil. 3:13,14 **“For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away?”** Luke 9:25 I am so thankful for what the Lord has done in my life. Truly, He deserves our all. I still have areas in which the Lord is working on me, and my desire is to have Jesus radiate throughout my life. May He be honored and glorified!

6. What is a Scripture that is meaningful to you and why?

“Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.” Matt. 5:6 What a promise! My desire is to grow in the grace and knowledge of my Lord and Savior. According to this verse, he will fulfill that desire.

7. Tell us about your church.

We have in the past been meeting in our home; but that kind of dissolved. Right now we are looking to relocate, and are seeking the Lord as to where.

8. Tell us about your work.

I work with my Dad most of the time doing construction-remodeling, things like that, although this past summer I worked for a landscaper. I have done other various things also: for example, we live beside a ranch, so we get in on some of that, which I really enjoy.

9. Tell us what activities you enjoy doing in your spare time.

I enjoy hunting, and some fishing. I also enjoy volleyball, and just going down in our woods, watching wildlife, and spending time alone with just me and the Lord.

10. Please share with us a song, quote, or poem that is meaningful to you.

A song that means a lot to me is, “Just a closer walk.” My desire is just to have a close and intimate walk with God.

11. Tell us about your plans (Lord willing) for the future.

As far as future occupation, I’m not totally sure; but I have felt for some years that the Lord may be calling me to the ministry.



The purpose of reading about the calling and life of other Christians is: to learn to know other subscribers, how they live, where they live, and the geography of their area.

Most important is to encourage others to follow Christ; to give a piece of your life and experience that will challenge others to strive for higher ground, to give a testimony of how He saved you and keeps you.

It’s one of the ways to get boy’s to practice writing.

We are looking for volunteers for this page. You may use whatever style you want. Send your achievements to:

The Boys Bugle
207 County Rd 56
Potsdam, N.Y. 13676

Some Thoughts on Courtship

(Continued from page 5)

by, etc. You will be avoiding temptation and giving no one a reason to wonder about the purity of your conduct.

Set high standards and stick to them. It is a good idea to write a courtship standard for yourself before you do begin courting/dating. Your friend and you should together agree on what is acceptable for you to do. Write it down so you don't forget. Hold each other accountable. It is good to give copies of your standard to a few others who are around you a lot, perhaps your parents, siblings, and close friends. Ask them to hold you accountable and speak to you if they see you slipping up.

When you begin courting/dating, do not neglect all your relationships. You need others now and will certainly want friends after you are married. Let your courtship be a blessing to others. It will then be a blessing to you.

Some questions to think about:

Does he truly love God?

Was he a dedicated Christian before he thought about courting me?

Will he be a strong spiritual leader in our home?

Does he take an active interest in Bible study?

Does he do what he learns?

Does he take an active interest in church work?

How does he relate to authority?

How does he treat his mother? Father? Brothers? Sisters? Animals? His own property? Other people's property?

Does he like children?

Is he gentle and patient?

Is he willing to help others?

How does he conduct himself around girls and women? Is he flirty or does he treat them like sisters and mothers?

Is he content?

Is he very honest?

How does he respond when he disagrees with something?

How does he act when things don't go his way?

Is he willing to discuss and work through problems?

Does he become upset or angered easily?

Is he forgiving or does he hold grudges?

What are his ideas about courtship?

How does he feel about child training?

What habits does he want in his family?

What type of lifestyle does he

want?

What kind of worker is he? Will he be motivated enough to provide for a family? Is he too busy working to have time for family, others, and God?

How does he spend his money? Does he use it wisely?

How does he feel about debt?

Does he practice healthy living?

How does he spend his leisure time? Is he involved in sports?

What kind of music does he listen to?

What are his dress standards?

Does he willingly help with housework?

Does he drive safely?

Do I want him to be the father of our children?

Am I willing to submit to him for the rest of my life?

What are his goals in life? How do they match with my goals?

Taken from The Heritage Magazine:

Do I really know my friend? Do I want to know him better?

What are his weaknesses? Am I expecting them to disappear? Can I live with them for the rest of my life, along with other weaknesses I will discover?

What are his strengths? Am I hindering or helping him in developing these strengths?

How does his background and upbringing differ from mine? What are the resulting differences in tastes, habits, mannerisms, and viewpoints? Can I live with these peculiarities, or am I hoping to reform him?

How does our personality compare—outgoing versus withdrawn, cheery versus somber, impulsive versus collected, assertive versus reserved, tidy versus unpolished? Have similarities or differences in our personalities been a source of conflict? Could they be in the future?

How do our intellectual abilities and interests compare? How important is learning and education to him? Will we have trouble understanding each other?

Can he keep confidences? Am I keeping secrets from him for fear everyone else will find out?

Do we bring out the best or the worst in each other?

Is our relationship built on circumstances or on character? Are we courting simply for the benefits we get from it, or because we have a mutual appreciation and respect for each other?

Is our relationship growing? Do we increasingly understand, respect, and love each other?

Are we comfortable together? Can we relax and be our natural selves?

Do we accept and respect each other the way we are, or do we want to change each other?

Do we trust each other?

Are we free to share our innermost

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Some Thoughts on Courtship

(Continued from page 11)

thoughts, or are we hiding things for fear of criticism or rejection?

What happens when we disagree? Can we conclude with both of us feeling satisfied and our love as strong as ever? Are we avoiding certain issues because we know they will cause friction?

Do we enjoy our devotional times together? Are we comfortable discussing spiritual interests?

Do we share the same spiritual convictions? What can we do about areas where we differ?

Has our time together been a time of spiritual growth for both of us?



Mephibosheth

(Continued from page 7)

king, being Saul's legal heir? David would have put him to death for treason. Anyone now who refuses to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour says, in effect, "I will not have this Man to rule over me. I want to be my own king." God will judge this person throughout eternity for this revolt against His Son, the King of kings. Won't you trust the Lord Jesus Christ as your own Lord and Saviour and enjoy all of the blessings He has for you.

By M.K. Canner
Used by permission from
Moments With The Book
P.O. Box 322
Bedford, PA. 15522



From our Readers:



Dear Friends at Boys Bugle,
I certainly enjoy your paper!

I hope you will continue its publication. Yes, we are still alive out here in Kansas, even though you did not hear from us last year.

A few months ago, I received a summons for jury duty. There was a small space available for giving reasons to be excused from duty. Apparently, a simple and truthful response will gain favor or respect more than a lengthy doctrinal dissertation.

I hope every thing is going well for Daniel and his new responsibilities as a husband of one wife.

God's blessings to you,
Richard Thayer
Tampa, Kansas

.....Dear Richard,.....

Thank-you for the letter and the comments on the jury duty summons.

I plan to continue to print this magazine as long as I can. I have no plans of stopping.

Yes, things are going well for Daniel and Mendy. They are building a new house this summer.

Melvin Martin

Dear Friends,

I really appreciated the front cover of the winter issue. It just warmed my heart. It was a thought-provoking picture. Makes you really wonder what each one's thoughts were as they were walking together.

Your magazines are really uplifting and encouraging. Keep up the good work and may God richly bless you in the ministry of writing.

Also in His service,
A fellow traveler,
Ruth Ann Hoover
Marietta, PA

It's encouraging to know that you enjoy The Boys Bugle. I need your encouragement. Thank you all for your letters and support.—Editor

We are Blessed to Call Him Father

By P. Michael Shell

A Father of the fatherless
He said that He would be,
E'en though we cannot see Him
He is there for you and me.

He is always there when needed
Along life's wearisome way,
And when we might feel lonely
He is there both night and day.

I have no earthly father
To whom I can get near,
But when I have a problem
I know that GOD will hear.

He is better than a father
And is kinder than a friend,
Sticketh closer then a brother
And will help you to your end.

To all the people on the earth

That have no father down here
I would like to say to them
That our GOD will always hear.

So, if you have a problem
That seems hard and heavy to bear,
Just take it to your Father in prayer
And leave your burden there.

Just thrust yourself into His care
And lean upon His arm,
And trust the LORD what e'er befall
He will never do thee harm.

He'll walk beside thee all the way
And be thy faithful guide,
Until we reach the Promised Land
And there we shall abide.

Questions and Answers

In Matthew 24:34 Jesus says, “**Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.**” The people standing there would have understood that what he was saying was to their generation. **Why would anyone think that Jesus was speaking of a future generation?**

Here is a question that I've been thinking about for the last while. It has become clear to me that God can change someone's heart and thoughts, (Exodus 7:3, Deuteronomy 2:30, Romans 1:28, Hebrews 8:10). It's also clear that we have control over our hearts and thoughts, (2 Chronicles 19:3, 20:33, 36:12-13, Proverbs 28:14, Romans 12:3, James 4:7-10). Also, other people can change our hearts, (1 Kings 11:3-4). The question that remains is: **Does God change someone's heart, mind, or thoughts against the persons will?**

Please send us your questions and answers:

The Boys Bugle
207 County RD 56
Potsdam, N.Y. 13676

Deadline for the next issue is July 31st.



My Shepherd's Loving Care

By Andrew McMahon

Out on the hills,
Lost was I.
The Shepherd came and saved me;
He heard my bleating cry.

The ninety and nine
The Shepherd left in the fold.
*"To find this which was Mine,
I value it greater than gold."*

*'Twas my choice to leave
The Shepherd's loving care.
But now to Him I cleave;
To depart, I do not dare.*

The wind on the mountains
Wild and bare.
Made me wish for the fountains
I had when in my Lord's care.

The rain cut through my coat,
And chilled me to the bone.
It dampened my spirit's float;
There fell I, with a groan.

Along came the Good Shepherd,
He saw me lying there.
At His touch my soul came unfettered,
As He said: "My lamb is in My care."

Now green pastures have I,
And the fountains I craved.
When with my Shepherd I do not cry;
Nor from death need to be saved.



Channel 23

The TV is my shepherd; I shall not want anything else. It maketh me to lie down on the sofa. It leadeth me away from the Scripture. It destroys my soul. It leadeth me in the paths of immorality and violence for the sponsors' sake, Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will enjoy the evil, for blood and immorality they excite me. Its cable and remote, they comfort me. It prepares a commercial before me in the presence of my children. It anoints my head with humanism. My coveting runneth over. Surely, vanity and degeneration shall follow my family all the days of our lives, and we shall dwell in the house watching TV forever.

The Bible is True

I beg leave to propose a short, clear, and strong argument to prove the divine inspiration of the Holy Scriptures. The Bible must be the invention of Good men or angels, bad men or devils, or of God.

1. It could not be the invention of good men or angels, for they neither would nor could make a book tell lies all the time they were writing it, saying, "Thus saith the Lord," when it was their own invention.
2. It could not be the invention of bad men or devils, for they could not make a book which commands all duty, and forbids all sins, and condemns their own souls to hell for all eternity.
3. Therefore, draw the conclusion that the Bible must be written by divine inspiration.

Quote from John Wesley

The Boys Bugle History

Back in 2000 and for a few years before that I was receiving another boy's magazine that I disagreed with on a few points doctrinally but I liked everything else about it. Therefore, I got the idea to print my own boy's magazine. I asked my friends what they think. They were for it.

So, we set out to start without counting the costs nor without much knowledge of running a computer, writing, editing, or printing, but with a lot of faith in God. After about a year of planning, learning, and editing, we completed our first issue.

For the first while, we printed on a friend's copier. It did not take long until The Boys Bugle was very short on money. When a few friends learned that I was printing a magazine and that my brothers and I liked to tinker, they gave us their old copiers that didn't work. We used them some but we couldn't get them to make very nice copies. I realized that I needed a copier repair manual. After looking every-

where I could think of for a copier repair manual, I gave up. Of course, I asked God for help.

Then one day a cedar post customer came that was a computer technician. I asked him if he knew where I could get a copier repair manual. He didn't know, but he said he might be able to find out. The next day he was back with a list of places where I could get copier manuals and parts. I could hardly believe that it was true. When I got my books, they were more detailed and cheaper than I ever imagined.

God gave me more than I expected. Since then the donations and the cost have been pretty even. God has provided us with everything that we needed.



God made **M**ale and female,
A man sh**A**ll leave
His fath**E**r
And his moth**E**r
And cleave to h**I**s wife,
The two sh**A**ll be one,
What God hath joined to**G**ether
Let not man put asund**E**r.

Mark 10:6-9



By Joy Martin

A Friend Forever

Daniel speaking on Sunday morning 9-2-01
Please read slowly and meditate on the questions.
(Slightly abridged and edited)

Good morning. We just sang a song. In the chorus of the song, we were singing "kind and loving to each other, gentle words to all we meet, thus we follow Christ our savior, proving all his service sweet." Do you actually believe this? What about gentle words to all we meet? What about people that are wrong? Or at least you think they are wrong. Are you nonresistant then, or do you feel like your religious responsibility requires you to set them straight? Do you think that God cares what we do? Do you care what I do? Should you care what I do? I think you should.

Last week we heard about "keeping the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace, till we all come to the fullness of the knowledge of Christ." This is an awesome concept — a concept that many good minds have wrestled with. It's not real easy to put into practice. What are you going to do when the other person is plain wrong, and yet you see evidence that he loves Christ? That's why I asked the question, "Do you care what I do?" How can you care what I do and at the same time have a good relationship with me, if I chose to do something that you think is wrong?

I want to read Romans chapter 14 and part of 15. As I am reading this, pay attention. Paul is giving instructions to this question of how we are to relate to each other in the face of differences. I think that at the end he gives a nice sum of what is most important. Anything that God has seen fit to give any sort of instructions about is important. It's worthy of our attention.

It's worthy of us aligning our lives to it. It is worthy of us sharing with each other what we think and for us to learn about it and from it.

There is another thing that is a lot more important than meat and drink that he is bringing forth in this passage.

I'm going to read Romans chapter 14 and the beginning of 15. Afterward I'm going to go back over it and make some comments.

Romans 14 verse 1, "**Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations.**"

Or an alternative translation according to my side notes for that verse. "Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to judge his doubtful thoughts."

Romans 14:2, "**For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs. Let not him that eateth, despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him. Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? To his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand. One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks. For none of us liveth to himself, and**

no man dieth to himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living. But why dost thou judge thy brother? Or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then, every one of us shall give account of himself to God. Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brother's way. I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that there is nothing unclean of itself: but to him that esteemeth any thing to be unclean, to him it is unclean. But if thy brother be grieved with thy meat, now walkest thou not charitably. Destroy not him with thy meat, for whom Christ died. Let not then your good be evil spoken of: For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men. Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another. For meat, destroy not the work of God. All things indeed are pure; but it is evil for that man who eateth with offence. It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak. Hast thou faith? Have it to thyself before God. Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth. And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of

faith is sin. We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let every one of us please his neighbor for his good to edification. For even Christ pleased not himself; but as it is written, the reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me. For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope. Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be like-minded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God."

There is a lot said in this passage. When you make a friend how long would you like that relationship to last? Deep down in your heart would you really like it to last and last and last? If there is a parting of ways, would you like that the parting of ways to be because responsibility took you to different places rather than because you could not get along with each other? Would this really please you? Do you know that there are a lot of people—probably most people—that want this, but do not have it?

I think that in this chapter, we have some clues as to how to attain this. He says, "**Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations.**" Here we have instructions to receive a person that is weak in the faith.

So now, we are to receive a person even though we know he is not perfect. This is not talking about a "squeeze your eyes shut, you met the perfect stranger and you receive him," but

(Continued on page 20)

A Friend Forever

(Continued from page 19)

rather have your eyes open, see what is actually there and still love.

He sums this section up with the idea that what we eat and drink and so forth, finally is not what God cares so much about. In Romans 14:17-18 he says, **"For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink but righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost, For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God and approved of men."** Righteousness, peace, and joy is what God really cares about.

There is instruction in the Bible about the rest of these details, the eating and drinking and so forth. These instructions do matter because they do make a difference in your righteousness, peace, and joy or they can, but they are not the determining factor of whether God accepts or rejects. **"For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost, For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God and approved of men."**

So now I want to go back to talking about how to have a long term, stable relationship. If you realize that I am not perfect and have chosen to love me anyhow, you are in a stable position. That relationship can last and last and last because it is not in for a surprise in the near future. If your love to me is based on my perfection, however; and you do not know about any of the places where I am weak in the faith, you are going to discover, sooner or later, that we have a difference and the very foundation of the relationship is going to be crumbling.

Now let us go on to chapter 15:5 **"Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be like minded**

one toward another according to Jesus Christ." In another place, the Bible talks about that God is the God of peace. This is not just saying that this is the way God wants us to be. This is saying that God has peace, patience, and consolation inside of Himself. He is content. Things are under control. Because of this, we can trust Him. Because of this, we can glorify Him, and because of this, we can relate to each other in a smooth fashion. If I believe that God's spirit is in control of my heart, yes, and of your heart, I will be able to relate to you in a much more tenderhearted way than if I feel like things are pretty bad out of control and that it is up to me to straighten you out because God's spirit is not going to get it done.

I'm not saying by this that God does not want us to share our concerns, rebuke, and so forth with each other. He makes it very clear that we need to do that. What I am saying is that there is a drastic difference between rebuke that comes out of a pressured, "I have got to straighten you out." attitude versus a rebuke that comes out of a heart that is relaxed—I am sharing my concerns with you because I care about you—it's not like I have to get you straightened out because there is no peace inside of me while you are the way you are. Do you understand this?

So let us keep the "unity of the spirit in the bond of peace till we all come to the fullness of the knowledge of Christ." We heard this last week. It's important. You are not going to succeed in this with out using the right method.

Now let us go on to the crowning verse of this whole passage. Romans 15:6 **"That ye may with one mind and with one mouth glorify God even the father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Wherefore receive ye one**

another as Christ also received us to the glory of God.” What is our religion about? What matters in life? Glorifying God does!!!!!! This is what we have been created for.

So, what things should I get excited about in my brothers life? What is an insignificant detail that I can and should ignore? I think it is fair to say that we should not be getting any more excited about some weakness that we see in a brother, than what God is getting about it. We see in the scriptures there is a lot of emphasis on love, there is a lot of emphasis on forbearance and forgiveness and so forth. There is a lot of emphasis on being happy.

I read a statement that is a bit startling but it makes some sense. It goes "God threatens to do terrible things to those that refuse to be happy in Him, to trust in Him, and to rejoice in His love." This writer is saying that God wants more out of us than just plodding along doing our duty, keeping the flesh under control. God wants us to be a joyful people, exuberant, about what He has done for us.

So, coming back to how we should relate to a brother or sister that is different, God cares more about our attitude, our heart, and our spirit, than He does about a lot of the things that are discussed in the creeds, theology books, and such kind of things. He cares more about our hearts than about how we look, dress and so forth. The minor supporting details are important. Any thing that God sees fit to even mention for us to keep is important. But we have one level of importance, and we have another level of importance. He puts an awful, awful, awful lot of emphasis in the scriptures on the point that the Christian faith is the faith where we are known by our love for each other. If we miss that point and get all the rest of this stuff right, I

suspect that all the rest of this stuff that we think that we have right will be subtly skewed from what God actually wanted.

There are a lot of different opinions in this world. God cares more about how we relate to each other in these disagreements than he does about the actual opinion. May God bless you all.



The Children's Challenge

To Charity and Cheerfulness

When Children Pray

It was a warm day in June of 1943 and Rebecca and Florence were but children. Rebecca was 8 and Florence was 7. They enjoyed going into the barn, as it was a lot cooler than out in the sunshine. They also liked to observe the farm's barn swallows busy feeding their young.

On this particular afternoon, the sisters found it relatively quiet, except for the happy sounds of the birds as they sailed in and out of the barn. The mama cat had followed and so one swallow was scolding her and then swooped down real close. But, mama cat was on her way to her nest of kittens, and had no plans to visit the birds.

But the peaceful atmosphere soon changed when the sisters heard a bellowing sound coming from the next pen. This pen usually had steers in it in the wintertime but dad had a red bull tied to the trough by a chain around the bull's neck. The chain had a pendulum type closure that slipped thru a hole in the trough. It was very rare for Big Red to wrangle around and get the chain loose but today they found him loose and that was scary.

Now what should they do? They didn't want him to break out of the pen. They didn't want to tell mother because the excitement may cause her to have an asthma attack.

Then Rebecca had an idea. Maybe they could put some corn chop in the trough where he needs

to be tied. So, the sisters went back in the feed room and each got a handful of meal. Soon Big Red came stalking over, very pleased to have a mid afternoon snack. Well he gobbled it up so fast that the girls didn't get their plan carried out.

Should they give up? Then Florence spoke up. "Let's pray and then we will try again." So, the 2 sisters knelt down beside a hay bale and asked Jesus to please help them tie the bull. So, they went and got more feed to put in the trough. It wasn't easy since their arms were hardly long enough but Jesus was helping them now and the chain end slipped into the hole and Big Red was tied before he finished his treat.

Then the girls went back to the house so happy to share the experience with mother. They each had a nice drink of garden tea. Now 60 years later Jesus has been a faithful guide, and a wonderful Savior to me and sister Florence.

Praise His Holy Name,
Rebecca Brubacker
Richland, Pennsylvania

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Blessed is the man that walketh
not in the counsel of the ungod-
ly, nor standeth in the way of
sinners, nor sitteth in the seat
of the scornful. But his delight
is in the law of the LORD; and
in his law doth he meditate day
and night. (Psalms 1:1-2)