

The Boys' Bugle

Calling all young men to the service of Christ

Vol. 6, Number 1

Spring 2006



Welcome to The Boys' Bugle

This issues theme "Self Sufficiency"

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The Planned Theme for the

Next Issue.

Financial Responsibility

What does the Bible mean when it says to own no man anything? Romans 13:8

The borrower is servant to the lender. Proverbs 22:7

Please send us your contribution before June 1 to get it here in time for the next issue. Thank-you.

On the Cover:

Robby Joe Hall
18 months old
Picture taken 4 years ago.
He's decked in his uncles straw hat.

Proverbs

6:1-11

My son, if thou be surety for thy friend, if thou hast stricken thy hand with a stranger, Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth, thou art taken with the words of thy mouth. Do this now, my son, and deliver thyself, when thou art come into the hand of thy friend; go, humble thyself, and make sure thy friend. Give not sleep to thine eyes, nor slumber to thine eyelids. Deliver thyself as a roe from the hand of the hunter, and as a bird from the hand of the fowler. Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways,

and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest. How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.



Editor's Desk



Dear Readers,

I am making a major change in my job as editor of *The Boys' Bugle*.

I realize that it's not possible for me to spend all the time that I've been spending on *The Boys' Bugle* if I hope to someday have a family. Therefore I have decided to mostly quit *The Boys' Bugle* for now.

I haven't quit completely though. I have given most of my responsibility to other people. I am learning how to be a boss instead of just doing most of the work myself. So if the people that I have given my responsibility to do a good job, *The Boys' Bugle* will probably be better off because I "quit."

I'm cutting back because I have to, not because I want to.

To read about self-sufficiency in Bolivia, see the letter from our friends, the Kropf's, in the *Heart and Home Harmony*.

We put my bus back on the road again. We plan to do a nice vegetable oil conversion to it and run it on vegetable oil.

Thanks to all those that have helped with this issue of *The Boys' Bugle*, especially to my Mom. Mom did a lot of the editing and without her pushing to make things happen, this issue would be even a lot later than it is.

Self-sufficient?

By Joy Martin

Self-sufficient? What does that mean? The dictionary definition is: *Able to supply one's own or it's own needs without external assistance.* Without external assistance? Uhm... Is that possible? Don't we need some help from other people? And lots of assistance from God?

I believe we should live as self-sufficiently as we can, but let me define what external help we should be able to live without. When I think of living self-sufficiently I think of living in a way as not to be dependant on the external help from such things as the government, electric companies, grocery stores, fuel stations, etc. Your life would not be in danger, if these things would fail, because you know how to grow your own food and preserve it, how to provide your own heating, light and transportation. There are many useful skills that have been lost in our fast-paced, convenient, wasteful society that has caused us to depend on someone or something else to provide what we need or want. Our society has made many things easy, fast, and convenient, but at the expense of being dangerously dependant on big companies to keep us alive. Even though we are living in this society, we do not need to be totally subject to it. We should seek to expand our knowledge so we know how to supply our own needs without external assistance.

There is, however, a place for external help in the form of family, community, friends, and church. It

is a beautiful, healthy, efficient, God-ordained way of living when people can help each other and work together as one. Different people have different talents, skills, and possessions, just like a body has various functions, so if folks work together, they can accomplish much more than one individual. The saying, *No man is an island*, is true. In fact, no one can be totally self-sufficient because we need each other!

Who of us can truly live without God? Even if you can live very self-sufficiently, you are still dependant upon God for your very breath! It is God that made you and me and this earth we live on. You can plant a garden so you have food to eat, but did you ever consider that it was not *you* who made the seeds or the dirt or the sunshine or rain? It is true that you can help or hinder the growth of the plants by the way you take care of them, but you cannot give them life, only God can.

You could be living very independently and think you have it all made, when in a moment, by things beyond your control, all your earthly possessions could be snatched from you. Then to whom will you depend on to supply all your needs? **But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.** Philippians 4:19 **God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be re-**

Self Sufficiency

By Hannah Holter

I sighed slightly as I stood up to rest my back. The sun was already hot even though it was still early morning. *Only three more rows* I thought and bending down continued weeding. I enjoyed weeding in the morning, it was better to finish my work in our large garden in the cooler part of the day. As I walked toward the house I noted that the peas needed to be picked again and the cucumbers looked ready too. "Mom the peas and cucumbers need to be picked." I said as I entered the house.

"Can you do that Hannah I have to make bread." She asked hurrying around the kitchen.

I laughed for I already had two pails to pick into.

Skip ahead 5 months...

I ran down the stairs and went into our cold room to grab a jar of beans for the noon meal. I glanced at the shelves still lined with jars of food. Our supply had dwindled a lot since fall when we had finished canning but there was enough to last us till spring when the new vegetables would come on. My mind floated back to remembering the weeding, the hot days, and setting up the hoses for watering, I could almost feel the sun beating down and the smell of the warm wet earth on my bare feet. Then I looked out the window. Here it was middle of January and I was imagining what summer in the garden was like. Why there was at least a foot of snow on the ground, and the wind was whipping it across the prairie. It was cold and snowy out but I had a taste of spring fever. The rest of my day in between chores and helping Mom with the kids I looked over the few seed cata-

logues I had, and began to write down my wishes.

Gardening is rather like a passion for me. I've been doing some sort of gardening ever since I can remember. I've learned to love the gardening, planting, weeding, harvesting. It all comes with a certain thrill to me. But it wasn't till a couple years ago that I really knew what gardening meant to us. The load was heavy on us children to be weeding and harvesting, Dad was making hay and Mom was heavily pregnant. So we worked at it and we had a beautiful harvest. Not one of us kids thought there was any other way to life. I mean, didn't other people have gardens and harvest their food for the winter? With Mom laid up with the baby, we worked hard, but it was fun... we had fresh watermelons to eat, muskmelons... beans, cucumbers, peas, carrots... all that we didn't eat fresh was canned or frozen. One day we received a visitor from a neighbouring farm, as they walked into our house I sent my younger sister down the stairs with a box of the most recently canned pickles and beans.

"Busy, busy I see." laughed the lady.

"But of course." I returned as my elder sister filled more jars with beans.

After some small talk the lady asked to see our gardens so we showed her.

"Goodness, you don't mean to tell me that you grow all of that." she exclaimed in horror looking at our two gardens. I must have looked at her strangely because she quickly went on, "I mean, isn't it a lot of work."

“But it’s fun to do it.” I responded.

“Oh, sure some of it, but all the canning and harvesting, that’s hard.”

“It’s our food for the winter.” I couldn’t help but answer.

The lady sniffed and left after a few minutes. I suddenly realized how it would sound to a woman who bought her food in the store, didn’t grow any sort of a garden or even flowers and didn’t think that self-sufficiency was important. I almost laughed out loud with the thought. ‘It’s fun,’ I had said and then seeing her face in response kept me grinning for a while. But before long I realized how it really was with us. Growing the garden, milking cows, raising meat birds, and laying hens, also our own beef cows, we raised almost all our food. Other than a few things that included, honey, baking soda and powder and salt we really don’t buy any of our food at the store. If we can’t grow it we try not to buy it. And yet I never thought of this as a ‘strange’ way of living... it was life and yet I slowly began to be aware that other people thought that we were so very self-sufficient, and brave to raise all or at least most of our food. If it wasn’t for our growing our food and raising our own meat, milk, and eggs, we wouldn’t be able to have this farm. Dad would have to work out and for one thing we certainly wouldn’t be healthy as we are now.

You know in the Bible God gave the command that we were to till the soil. In Genesis after Adam and Eve disobeyed God and He banished them from the garden, he told Adam (Genesis 3:17-19) that he was to till the soil and would work by the sweat of his face. If we are being ‘self-sufficient’ by growing our own food, and raising our own meat, are

we not following the Bible? Not once have we gone hungry and yet there seems to have grown a certain people that think that you have to live in town and buy food out of the store in order to be ‘rich.’ I believe that they who can live on the farm, feel the soil, and till it, have so much more than they do. How good is it to be dependent on the store for food? Not good at all. You hear of people starving and yet it is always in the city. Why is it that the people who raise gardens and live off the land have enough? Proverbs 12:11a says : “He that tilleth his land shall be satisfied with bread:” and in Proverbs 28:19a it states : “He that tilleth his land shall have plenty of bread.” In those two verses we see a promise that those who plough or plant their land shall never go hungry. In this modern world we who are self-sufficient grow our own food, we plant the field and yet we are only obeying the Lord. How has it come that people have lost the fact the God said to till the land and we shall have plenty. Instead they wish to go to the city and have others work for them. They prefer not to obey the Lord and would rather sit in their air-conditioned work offices and do ‘work’ that the Lord didn’t tell them to do. Being self-sufficient doesn’t just have to be with food... for instance my father finished an outdoor stove that will heat the house, we have plenty of wood in the farm and we can burn it in the stove. We can now heat the house without having heating bills. And to tell the truth the outdoor stove has kept our house warm much better than the oil furnace ever did. We try to make most of our own clothing. Mom tries to sew all the diapers for the babies so we don’t have to buy the disposa-

(Continued on page 17)

The Lost Spring

Yesterday a strange thing happened to me.

When I rebuilt the skid loader engine a few weeks ago, being I didn't have a good manual, I ended up stretching the governor springs when I was taking it apart. When I got it back together, it hardly even ran at half speed because the governor springs were stretched. (I half expected it to do that.)

So yesterday I had gotten the new springs and was ready to put them in. The access plate to the governor was a little hole in the top of the engine and I had to use a needle nose pliers to work. There are two governor springs, a little one inside of a big one. As I lowered the springs into the governor hole, the little spring slid out of the big spring and fell into the engine. I figured that it fell into the timing cover but it also could have fallen into the injector pump.

So I took the whole front end of the engine apart, which meant most of the external stuff, and draining the oil and antifreeze. But there was no spring in there. So after looking everywhere possible, and then double-checking, I decided it's in the injector pump.

So I took the top of the engine apart so I could get to the injector pump and I also took the valve cover off so I could recheck the head bolts and the valve gap. But there was no spring in the injector pump either. But the injector pump was shaped so the spring could have slide down into the crankcase. I wasn't going to take the engine out of the skid loader and take the bottom of the engine apart just to get that spring. I decided it didn't matter if the spring is in the

bottom of the crankcase, and I'll just go buy a new spring.

But I didn't feel like waiting another week for the new spring to come and I decided the old spring wasn't that bad, and that I could use the old spring. But I didn't have any gasket maker for putting the engine back together, so I went to doing other stuff.

I decided to clean up a bunch of drain oil in the shop. A few weeks ago some of the tools in my toolbox were missing. As I was dumping the drain oil out of a bucket that we used to drain the Massey transmission, there in the bottom was a bunch of my tools. (My little nephews like to rearrange our stuff. I was supposed to be watching them but I wasn't.) So as I was dumping the oil out of the buckets, I was watching very carefully to make sure I get all the tools. I propped the one bucket on top of another bucket to let the last bit of oil run out.

Awhile later I came back to get the bucket and there on the inside edge of the bucket was the spring I was missing. I about couldn't believe my eyes when I saw that spring. Indeed it was the same spring because it was the right shape, it was brand new looking, and it had the right color of paint on it.

I realized that the only way that spring could have gotten in that bucket was if God put it there. I wondered why God would do such a strange thing. What did it mean? If there was no other reason for it, it did encourage me, for I was discouraged before that.

Nathaniel suggested that the spring fell out of the engine when I took it apart, it landed on the floor

and bounced about 15 feet and landed in the bucket of oil. I don't think a spring that's coated with thick cold engine oil would bounce very far when only falling about 16 inches. Anyway it should have been laying on the skid loader, not on the floor. And I'm almost sure that there was no spring in the bucket after I had dumped the oil out. And besides, what is the chance that all those things happened just right and I found the spring again.

Someone else suggested that the spring fell on the floor, I kneeled on it, and it stuck to my pants. Then later it fell off of my pants and landed in the bucket of oil. Well, first the spring doesn't look like anyone sat on it. Second, it was quite awhile after I was at the skid loader that I went to that bucket and in the mean time I had run outside for awhile and had done a bunch of other things. What's the slim chance it fell off of my pants and into that bucket?

What's the slim chance that I

emptied that bucket just then, (if it was even in the bucket then)? And the slim chance that it didn't fall into the bucket of oil that I was draining into? Regardless how the spring got in the bucket, whether by some unknown but explainable means, or whether God put it there himself; I believe that God's hand was in it.

Finally, after putting the engine back together, I have the skid loader running real nice.

Melvin Martin

Don't Quit:

Don't quit when the tide is lowest,
For it is about to turn.

Don't quit over doubts and Questions,
For there is something you might learn.

Don't quit when the night is darkest,
For it's just awhile 'til dawn.

Don't quit when you've run the farthest,
For the race is almost won.

Don't quit when the hill is steepest,
For your goal is almost nigh.

Don't quit for you're not a failure
Until you fail to try.

The Martin's Homemade Windmill

By Nathaniel Z. Martin

This fall my Dad and I built a windmill. We took a four-paddle reel off of a combine. We added two more paddles and mounted it with the shaft vertical. We have four stationary paddles spaced at angles around the reel so that the wind is directed off the one side and on to the other side. On the bottom end of the shaft we fastened a bike wheel.

We built the windmill at the greenhouse. We ran a belt from the bike wheel to a blower and a pipe from the blower into in-between the two layers of plastic on the greenhouse. The air in between the plastic is for insulation and to keep the plastic tight so it does not flap in the wind. The blower didn't work [later we found out that there was a spot in the pipe that was closed off.] So we made billows for a more positive action. But the greenhouse was only blown up when the wind blew. One night the connecting rod broke so we decided not to bother blowing up the greenhouse. But we decided to make electric instead. But the problem was that the windmill turned slowly and most generators are made to spin fast. While trying out an old tractor generator and checking out different DC motors I decided I wanted a motor [some motors can be used for generators] or generator that had permanent magnets instead of one with electric magnets [field windings]. Because ones with field windings need to be charged to produce electric and I did not want to hook it up to a battery because it would drain the battery when the wind was not blowing.

I also could have hooked the field windings to the armature and the little electric that it makes will start it charging. But the generator did not seem to work and the motor I had I

could not seem to get hooked up in a satisfactory way. And I was not sure about what speed I would need to get a generator hooked up that way to start charging.

So I ended up using the motor off our 36V permanent magnet electric bike. I took the spokes and rim off the motor. [The front wheel had the motor built right in it.] Using the forks off a bike I mounted the motor on the windmill. I have a belt from the bike wheel [24"] to the motor [about 7".] The faster the motor turns the higher the voltage it puts out. It puts out 6 Volts at a decent speed. I have it charging a 6V battery. I put a diode in so the motor does not run off the battery but still charges it. The windmill will not produce a much higher voltage than the battery because the battery puts a load on the windmill, which does not let the windmill spin faster to produce a much higher voltage. When the battery is fully charged a load needs to be put on so the batteries are not over charged. I have been trying to make a device that will put that load on automatically.

Being 6V does not fit in our 12V system very well, I tried to gear the motor up more with a jackshaft. But the windmill was not strong enough to turn it. I thought that the gearing was too inefficient or that maybe it was not strong enough to turn the motor at that speed. So I put it back to the slow speed. Then I found out that the motor was shorted out [do to a bad wire going to the batteries] so now I do not know if it could turn it or not. It will charge a 12V battery the way it is but the windmill has to get up to a pretty good speed. Therefore we do not catch the low speed winds while charging at 12V. To get 12V we might gear it up

(Continued on page 11)

Eyewitness?

When it comes to telling the story of a person's life, there is no substitute for an eyewitness.

Christians have the mandate to sharing their faith in Christ by "witnessing" or giving "testimony." It is an accurate concept taken directly from the Bible. Read 1 John 1:1-7
John, a disciple of Jesus wrote: **...we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us; That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you...** V.2-3

If you know Jesus as your Savior and have experienced His love, grace, and forgiveness, you can tell someone else about Him. Youth, beauty, and theological training are not required.

Reality and enthusiasm are more valuable than a training course in how to share your faith.

When it comes to telling someone the wonderful story of how Jesus Christ can transform a person's life, there is NO substitute for a firsthand witness like you.

Jesus doesn't need Lawyers; he needs witnesses.

John 9:24-34

Believers who are spirit-filled are unaware that God may be revealing through their Christ like ways
A glimpse of His reality.

Harald Böker
Wyevale, Ont. Can.

Questions and Answers

Question from the last issue:

In Matthew 8:12 it says, "But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." **Who are the children of the kingdom that will be cast into outer darkness?**

Answer:

Who are the children of the kingdom? Don't we know who they are? Surely

we do. It tells us in Hebrews 4:6 who they are. It was "They to whom it (the gospel) was first preached entered not in because of unbelief."

J. T. Wickey
Mansfield, MO.

Please send us your questions and answers:

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

again or we might convert the 6v to 12v.

The reason we are playing around with this mill is because we want to learn to produce our own energy.



The Sap's Running

By Luke Martin

What a welcome sound to hear someone say, "the sap is running." It means springtime and some fresh maple syrup.

Let me tell you about our experience of making maple syrup.

Fifteen years ago we were novices to the production of maple syrup. We knew what maple trees looked like, and we knew what maple syrup tasted like. But moving here from Pa. meant we never had been exposed to the art of tapping trees or boiling the sap into syrup or maple sugar.

When we were looking for a farm, we had a list of things we wanted our farm to have. One of those things my wife insisted on was, sugar maple trees. Well we found what we wanted and now we can produce our own syrup!

A kind neighbor taught us what we needed in basic equipment, and how to go about producing maple syrup in our back yard.

We bought taps, buckets, and a candy thermometer. I had my brother-in-law build me, stainless steel pans, measuring 3 feet by 4 feet and 6 inches deep for boiling the sap into syrup. I already had a 7/16th inch drill bit and brace for tapping the trees.

The neighbor said we should use concrete blocks for support for our pans.

So we built an A-frame shelter. We then, put our pans on top of the concrete blocks and we were ready for sap.

We also took a 275-gallon fuel tank, and by splitting it and fastening a hitch to it, made a sled. We put a barrel on it to put the sap in. Our draft horses got the job of pulling the sled for collecting the sap.

Next we went to drilling holes for the taps. We drilled on the south side of the tree trunks under where a big limb came out of the trees. We put a tap in then we hung our buckets.

On days with cold nights and warm days the sap would run. This had to be boiled before it turned sour. It is best to boil it the same day you collect the sap from the trees.

It takes from 25 to 50 gallons of sap to make 1 gallon of syrup. I used the thermometer to know when it is done. Every time before boiling, check at what temperature water boils and add 7 degrees Fahrenheit for the temperature for finished syrup. Take note, water does not always boil at the same temperature. The reason for this is that boiling temperatures change with changes in the barometric pressure.

In our case with slow boiling in our flat bottomed pans, we made some very dark syrup. But now that we have a more modern setup with fluted pans, I can make some light syrup early in the season.

When the syrup is finished boiling, I filter it through a felt strainer to get the niter out of it. Niter occurs naturally in maple sap and if not filtered out, produces a dark sediment on the bottom of your container.

Then we can the syrup at temperatures of 180 degrees Fahrenheit or above while canning.

Those 1st years we made 20 to 25 gallons of maple syrup a year, plenty for our family of thirteen. My wife used it in baking, we used it on our pancakes, and occasionally we would make maple ice cream. Yum! Yes, we eat pretty good around here!



From our Readers:



Dear Editor,

It has been awhile since you last heard from me - however this is to acknowledge that I did receive the last 2 issues of your publication.

Since I am not a subscriber I am willing to collect and share with you print-worthy articles. Maybe some of the material you may have even already received from me or others which are both inspirational and constructive.

In this day and age, with so much confusion and controversy - even among so called believers-one must be well grounded in God's word to be able to define "what is truth and what the Lord requires of us?" Only God's Holy Spirit can interpret this to us if we are open to receive what He has to say to us in every situation.

Our testimonies - whether in speech or conduct - should reflect that which brings honor to God. We are called to walk blamelessly so that the adversary has no right to accuse us in any way.

In Philippians 4:8 gives us some direction to follow -WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE TRUE, HONORABLE,

LOVELY, OF GOOD REPUTATION; IF THERE IS ANY EXCELLENCE AND IF ANYTHING WORTHY OF PRAISE, LET YOUR MIND DWELL ON THESE THINGS.

I was sorry to hear about some of the mishaps you have experienced in the past. One needs to extol the power of Jesus' blood over each one in our going out and coming in and wherever so that Satan will have no claim over us.

We have had a relatively steady winter since November with temperatures usually around and blow freezing with quite a bit of snow.

Wishing you and yours a safe and healthy winter.

Sincerely,
MARGARET GABOR
Bright, Ontario

Thank you for your letter and contributions.

Dear Melvin,

How are you doing? I've enclosed an article on diesel-powered cars using recycled frying oil you might find interesting.

We just received the most recent issue of The Boys' Bugle. It wasn't clear to me exactly what your view of prophecy is. I take it you have problems with some of the doctrines of so-called dispensationalists. In your editorial, you seem to attribute dispensational thinking to "main line Christianity." How do you define, "main line Christianity?" Mainline Christianity is usually defined as the "main line" churches including Episcopal, Presbyterian, Lu-

theran, Methodists, and sometimes Baptist and/or Catholics. Except for the Baptists, most people in those groups don't even know what dispensationalism is, let alone believe in it. It is true that dispensationalism has been popularized by the *Left Behind* books and movies, but there are many serious Christians who do not accept it (besides yourselves). Since you haven't laid out exactly what you believe about the end times, I am not going to say whether I agree or don't. However, I will say that whenever we write for publication we should define our terms as clearly as possible and write as clearly as possible.

I would assume from your chart on pages 12 and 13 and from the use of the word compared in the title, that you are trying to demonstrate the similarity of Matthew 24 and 25 to the Thessalonians epistles. However, there is an important point of contrast which must be taken into account: there is no mention of the resurrection of the saints (or sinners) in Matthew 24 and 25 but there is in 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17 (the dispensationalists refer to the events described in these verses as the "rapture.")

I have enclosed some pages from the Mennonite "Confession of Faith" concerning the relationship of God's present and future reign of Christ. I don't have any point of disagreement with it. Do you? If so, how would you disagree?

Sincerely,
Martha Canner
Baltimore, Maryland

Dear Martha,

Thanks for the letter and the discussion.

That newspaper clipping on fryer oil is interesting. He did pretty much the same thing to his Jetta as I did to mine.

When I mentioned "main line Christianity" in the Editor's Desk of the last issue, I was thinking of those that believe in a "future" coming of Christ that's more or less disconnected from the rest of their doctrine and practices.

I am somewhat of a dispensationalist; for I believe in the Old Covenant and the New Covenant, which by the definition of the word, are different dispensations. However, I'm not a futuristic dispensational premillennial, or anything like that.

In the last issue, I was focusing on teaching the truth of the subject, not necessarily trying to show the error of those that err. Also I want people to think

for themselves and come to their own conclusions. Therefore, you are right that I didn't clearly define what my specific view of prophecy is. Yet on the other hand, I did try to cover all the basics and main points.

How much more clear can I be than to say that God so loved the world that he has sent his Son into the world, that whoever believes on him will not perish but have everlasting life? It was prophesied that God would send his Son to redeem the world to himself. Isn't salvation and life here now today? Don't we have all we need if we have faith in God, love for God and man, and hope for better times in the future?

You mention that Matthew 24 and 25 don't say anything about the resurrection. When I read over Matthew 24 and 25, I see lots of references to the resurrection.

Matthew 24:13 Wouldn't enduring to the end, and being saved, be the same thing as being resurrected?

Verse 14 Isn't the purpose of preaching the gospel so the people can be resurrected to life instead of damnation?

Isn't verse 30 and 31 talking of some kind of resurrection?

Verse 42-51 What is the purpose to watch and be wise and faithful, except to be ready for the resurrection?

Isn't all of Matthew 25 referring to the resurrection, and our being prepared and faithful for that time?

So in conclusion, it seems to me that Matthew 24 and 25 talk a lot about the resurrection.

You asked if I agree with the Mennonite Confession of Faith on "The Reign of God." Here are my thoughts on it:

I agree that what we have now in the church is a foretaste of what we will have in

the future. I agree that we are to live now in a holy and righteous way. I agree that we will be raised as Christ was raised. And every man will be rewarded for the works he did. I look forward to the day when I can go to heaven. I agree that man has a free will, and God lets us be free to follow him or not. And God is holy and just.

However, when it's all said and done, why do they think there will be a future kingdom here on this earth other than the church? I don't see what your difference between the present church and the future kingdom is?

I don't think the kingdom of God is or ever will be a physical kingdom. For it says the kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but righteousness, peace and joy. Isn't righteousness, peace and joy what we have in the church, as sons of God? Didn't the Jews in Jesus' time make the mistake of thinking that Jesus' kingdom was going to be physical?

To be very clear, I don't believe in a future coming of Christ as the futurists view it. In 70 AD He came in judgment, the OT saints were judged, and the transition from the Old to the New was completed. He is present with us in Spirit and will take us to our reward as we leave this life. If scriptures are compared it is obvious that the scriptures that many take symbolically are used literally, and vice-versa.

I agree that "now we follow Christ in our mortal bodies; we look forward to life in Christ with new, resurrected bodies, (1 Corinthians 15:35-57).

Regardless of our view of prophecy, "God's people should always live in righteousness, praising God, fol-

lowing Christ, led by the spirit, awaiting in hope the coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." And I'll add, if we forget that it's by our love that the world knows we are Christ's disciples, then it makes no difference what our view of prophecy is, for we certainly won't be part of the kingdom of God if we have hate in our hearts. So let us have first things first, and walk in the love of God.

Melvin Martin

Dear Editor,

I received The Boys' Bugle and to respond to "Let's Face The Truth.", where are there any scriptures that tell us we shall be raptured and will never see the great tribulation? It's such a popular doctrine now days.

We see in history what terrible tribulation the apostles and the early Christians endured for their faith—every one of them—recorded in the Martyrs Mirror. But today Christians are much better than the early Christian? They are taught today they will never see the suffering tribulation. What happened in Russia when the great and bloody revolution came to that country; a great tribulation under Lenin and Stalin—death camps.

Then those who taught that they will be raptured and shall not see the great tribulation were undeceived—and that gave them credit to believe there is no God—because it never came true (that false doctrine never came true). They were not raptured out as the false teacher had told them.

J. T. Wickey
Mansfield, MO.

(Continued from page 7)

bles. We grind our own grain for bread.... I could go on and on but I spare you. We are self-sufficient because we want to, we obey the Bible about tilling the ground, eating from the garden, raising our food. This is our life. It started when Mom and Dad were married; they saved, scrimped, and worked hard. They had a dream, their dream was a farm, their dream was to raise us children into Godly people. As each one of us came along we were shown the word of the Lord, how to work, how to plant a garden, how to harvest and put away the excess. I will never be able to thank the Lord enough for my parents being willing to raise us 'self-sufficient'. Being self-sufficient from the store, from the vanity of the world is simple obedience to the Lord.

Being self-sufficient does not mean that we shouldn't mix with other people. Yes we need to share, we do lean somewhat on our neighbors and friends... we can count on them helping us with things and they can count on us. We aren't staying away from everyone. We are not trying to isolate ourselves from others. Yes we do observe a lot of care around these people, but we are not unfriendly. We try with the best of our abilities to help them out and maintain a Christian example. We wish to lead them to the Lord, not only by our talk but by our lifestyle. In a way depending on who you are, being self-sufficient has a great impact on people who are none Christians. There are many people who try to go back to the earth and yet it seems they never make it... is it perhaps that they don't believe in God? God leading us is the reason we have tried to be as self-sufficient as we can. We don't want to lean on

the government for food. If the government collapses and we are living in the city dependent on the store for food we will die unless we get out. We live on the farm to obey the Lord *and* to survive. God had a reason for telling people in his word to grow a garden and make their own food. And in these days (before also for there is nothing new under the sun) people have lost that reason, they flock to the cities... bigger jobs, nicer houses, and you know what all they want is money and God said that the 'Love of money is the root of all evil'. How Satan has twisted things around and there are so many people that are caught in that net that he is drawing closed, slowly but steadily.

Hannah Holter

Melville, Saskatchewan

On Memorizing Scripture

By John L. Bray

If you want to memorize Bible passages (and you should), then do it while you are young. The mind is more susceptible to storing up these treasures than it will be in later years. A worthy ambition would be to learn one passage by heart every day. And these truths built up in your mind and heart will come to your rescue again and again as you need something to fall back on in time of need.

The book of Psalms is one of the greatest cases of a man who loved God, knowing the Scriptures, and letting them be the strength of his life, in spite of terror sometimes, in spite of danger, and in spite of his past sins, the word of God to David kept him focused on God, His mercy, His power, and His salvation, sometimes when all else around him was crumbling and falling apart.

So get to know the word of God while you are young. Let it fill your mind and your heart.

True, some pervert the teachings of the Bible through their use of quoting from the Bible. It seems that the devil did that to Jesus in the days of His temptation at the beginning of His ministry. Some do that today. One in particular, on national television, can quote any verse from the New Testament by heart at any moment. But using these passages to automatically prove what one is saying, when they do not mean what the speaker has said, is wrong. Quoting a lot of Scripture does not necessarily mean that the person is right in what he says. And this can mislead thousands of Christians who are ignorant

enough to say. "Well, he quoted the Bible to prove his point." So did the devil. People need to look up Scriptures for themselves, read the context, and find out also to whom certain passages apply.

In my teen-age years I learned the secret of learning much of the New Testament by heart (and much of the Old Testament as well). It didn't happen by my attempting to memorize certain passages. Rather, it came by my reading those passages over and over again until they just stuck in my mind. Reading the Bible through, over and over again, and going over certain passages again and again, just automatically imprinted those passages on my mind. They stayed with me during the years. They will always be there.

As a matter of fact, it was interesting many times when listening to someone else preach or teach, to be able to say, "He misquoted that," or, "That is not what it says." Of course, these days when so many versions of the Bible are used, one never knows what the wording should be, but at least a comparison can be made in the mind of what one translation says compared to that which one has learned himself. You will be able, incidentally, to learn more Bible by heart if you stick to one translation rather than different ones. (I don't mean for research and study, but for your constant reading of the Bible).

But let me warn you: don't wait until the later years in your life, when you retire and have more time, or when you get old, to start trying to memorize Scripture. That won't work. The mind that God has given

us doesn't cooperate with us as well in our old age. There are too many "senior moments," and too much senile disposition of the brain, and sometimes even the beginning of Alzheimer's disease, that all hinder our minds from being productive in this manner. The mind can recall those things you learned even as a youth, but it doesn't cooperate when trying to remember for what you went into the kitchen, or what you were to pick up at the store. Long ago memories stay with you, but you can't remember someone's name you just met ten minutes ago. You know what happened fifty years ago, but you can't remember what happened yesterday. You remember verses you learned by heart when you were a child, but you can't remember the verses you read just yesterday.

Some years ago a pastor friend of mine lay dying in a Tampa, Florida, hospital. He seemed almost unconscious except for a continual quoting, in subdued tone, of verses from the Bible.

As I stood by his side and listened, I felt that he was finding help and strength from God's word even as he neared the point of death. Knowledge of the Bible enabled his mind to do this.

More recently a friend in Los Angeles called to tell me of his experience in the hospital because of pneumonia. He was there three times, as they tried to locate the problem. Finally they discovered the X-rays had not shown up the water in his lung, and when this was finally discovered they drained a gallon of water from a lung. He told me, "Brother Bray, what kept me going was that I kept going through the Bible, in my mind, as I laid there."

God's word sustained him in the time of need, and was possible because he had put so much of the Bible into his mind. It was there when he needed it.

So I am saying, read the Bible, over and over again, and pick out those special passages and read them in particular, over and over again, until they are imbedded in your soul. But start now! Don't wait until you are too old to retain things in your mind. That brain will become like a sieve, letting those passages go right on through and out and never leaving a permanent impression at all.

So read the Bible. Take all of it in that you can. It may be difficult to let television and other things give way to time for this, and you may not regret it until later years. So do it now, while you can, and find the profit in doing so which God intended for you.

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Go to the ant, thou sluggard;
consider her ways, and be
wise: Which having no guide,
overseer, or ruler, Provideth
her meat in the summer, and
gathereth her food in the har-
vest.

Proverbs 6:6-8