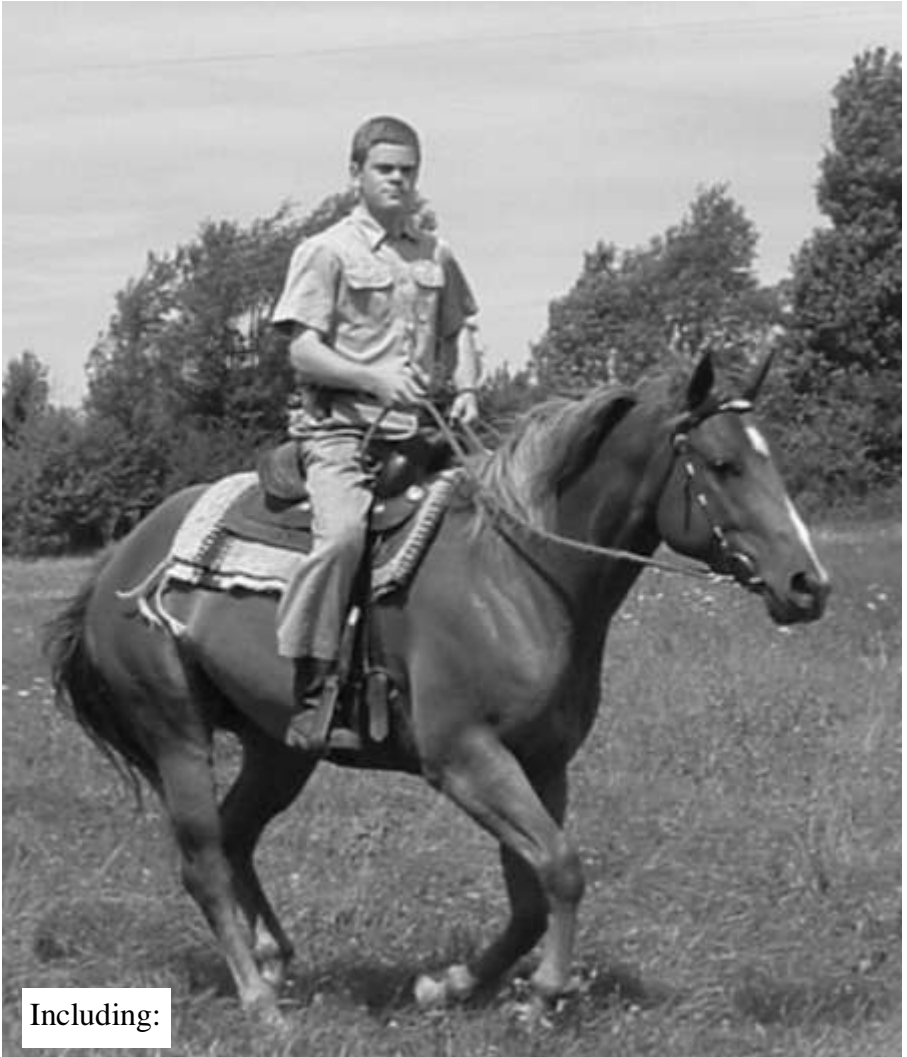


The Boys' Bugle

Calling all young men to the service of Christ

Vol. 6, Number 2

Summer/Fall 2006



Including:

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.

Welcome to The Boys' Bugle

This issues theme "Financial Responsibility"

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The Planned Theme for the
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Honor

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On the Cover:

Jonathan riding Joy's Quarter Horse, Mercy.

Proverbs

6:12-19

A naughty person, a wicked man, walketh with a froward mouth. He winketh with his eyes, he speaketh with his feet, he teacheth with his fingers; Frowardness is in his heart, he deviseth mischief continually; he soweth discord. Therefore shall his calamity come suddenly; suddenly shall he be broken without remedy. These six things doth

the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.



Editor's Desk



Dear Readers,

Sorry this issue is so late. Because we are so late with this issue, we decided to combine the summer and the fall issues into one. Also, we combined the two magazines into one booklet. I have been very busy this summer. If it wouldn't be for all the work that my

mom (and others) did on this issue, it still wouldn't be ready to print. Actually, about the only thing I am doing for this issue is writing this letter. I did do a tiny bit of the layout, but Mom did most of it.

Still in His service,



Daniel, Tim and Luray demonstrating vegetable oil for fuel at the energy fair.

Money Matters and Family Values

By Luke Martin

If we value our family, it matters what we do with our money. We need some money so that we can provide for our family. **But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.** 1 Timothy 5:8. Statistics show that money problems are a major cause of the break-up of marriages. Too little or too much money and the careless use of money and the love of money have wrecked havoc in many a family.

The Bible says, **Owe no man any thing, but to love one another.** Romans 13:8. To owe others money or whatever you promised is not an act of love and consideration. Other folks need to be paid so that they too can pay their bills. The Bible also tells us that if we owe someone that we should not keep what is due. We should not say come back tomorrow if we can pay now. **Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it. Say not unto thy neighbour, go, and come again, and tomorrow I will give; when thou hast it by thee.** Proverbs 3:27-28

If you find that the economic boom we are told we are in does not include you, then you must be careful to keep in mind that outgo cannot exceed income. Americans are big consumers. We tend to get our wants and our needs mixed up. We should be content with food and clothing.

But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And

having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. 1 Timothy 6:6-10

There are those on a fixed income and certain other vocations where there is no control of the monies paid for goods delivered. These are negatively affected by our present trend of inflation. Inflation helps the rich investor and hurts the poor.

To use credit cards to buy now and pay later is only to get further behind. Be on time and pay on time or it will cost you or someone. If you cannot pay now, why would you think you could pay later? To keep up with the Jones may bankrupt you!

Because of spending and living habits, many families have very little time together. I believe the family is more important than material wealth. I believe you and your family would live richer lives together even if you had to sacrifice some of what you think are needs. The end result of families living separate lives and only using home as a base, is that there are many very lonely people and unsatisfied people in this country. Family ties are lost when their lives become separated. Yet many of these lonely folks have enough money.

God says that women are to be homemakers. It is a high calling to raise children ready to face the big

world.

Yes, it is not the high cost of living, but rather the cost of high living that makes a slave of the whole family. Many a person spends his best years striving to achieve some goal, only then unable to enjoy it when he gets to his goal because of health and age. Stop and re-evaluate! What is life? What is really important? Do you know what the true riches are? Did you know that Jesus promised to provide the basic necessities to those who seek him first?

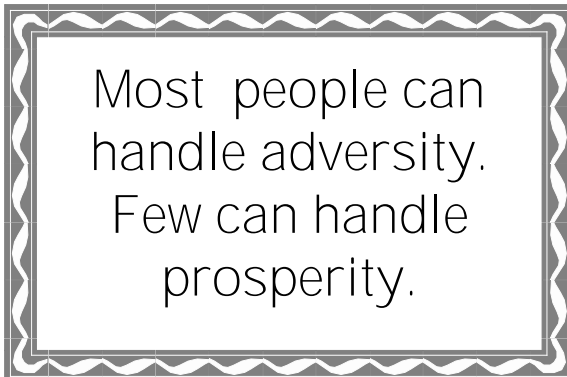
Some wise person said that if you have lost something that the place to look for it is where you had lost it. How do people order their lives that have enough money to pay their bills and have family time and take one day a week off every week of the year to go to worship services and visiting and to rest up?

Look at our Amish neighbors who do not have all of our time saving devices, but still have time to help each other in work, time for the family, time to go fishing, to go traveling and visiting, time for church services? Do our time savers really help us that much? I believe they can but we had better use moderation and use good judgment. Time is money and money is time. What do you want to spend on what?

There are a lot of ways to spend quality time with your family and save lots of dollars doing it. Here is a partial list, you may add to it: Gardening (if you lack space, plant in pots, flower beds, on fences and walls, and community gardens), fishing, foraging for berries, greens, mushrooms, cut your own firewood (buy from state forest, cut on share for a farmer or woodlot owner.) Do your own home and auto maintenance whenever possible. Other quality family time activities include: go to church together, go hiking, visiting friends and neighbors. Help others by having a work party with friends and neighbors.

The Bible says that in all labour there is gain (Pro. 14:23). It is ok to work long and hard. Union work values are not sustainable. Whatever you do, do it heartily as to God. Take control of your life, plan your shopping trips (make a store list and avoid impulse spending. If it is not on the list do not buy it.) Be sure to sleep on big deals first. Do you need it if you cannot afford it? Do preventive maintenance. If you wait until it quits it could cost you more.

“Owe no man anything but love” I believe you can realize this without sacrificing what really counts in life.



“Owe no man anything but...love”

by Eldon Glick

Borrowing has become a way of life in America. The government is in deep, irreversible debt. Businesses often operate with debt. Most families live in debt, and even many churches have been built with debt. As a result of this way of life, we are now witnessing pressures in government, business, families, and churches, which threaten to destroy their economic existence.

We want to raise a few questions at this point:

Is this God’s way for Christians? What does God’s Word teach concerning the principles of debt and finance? Should Christians intentionally contract debts? Following are listed twenty sound principles, gleaned from Scripture, which show why Christians should avoid borrowing and debt. May we all have open hearts to test this according to the Word of God and to receive the conviction from His Holy Spirit to apply it to our lives.

1. Borrowing constitutes a judgment of God.

God clearly relates borrowing to His judgment upon His people for failing to follow His ways. “Only if thou carefully hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all these commandments which I command thee this day. For the Lord thy God blesseth thee, as He promised thee: thou shalt lend unto many nations, but thou shalt not borrow...” Deut. 15:5-6 “But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the

LORD thy God... that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee.... He shall lend to thee, and thou shalt not lend to him; he shall be the head, and thou shalt be the tail.” Deut. 28:15, 44

2. Borrowing damages God’s reputation and steals His glory. Christians today often cause the world to mock. We say we believe the Bible; we claim to have faith in God. We trust God enough to take us to heaven and provide for us through all eternity, but we don’t trust Him enough to provide for us now in the small details of this life. By this we are saying to the world; ‘Our God just isn’t able to supply what I need, so I have to make up the difference with a loan’. That approaches blasphemy!

“But my God shall supply all our need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” Phil. 4:19

3. Borrowing causes family pressures. Statistics indicate that 90% of the divorces in our country are caused at least in part by financial pressures which are largely brought about by debt.

“He that is greedy for gain troubleth his own house...” Pro. 15:27

4. Borrowing evades God’s direction through circumstances as it is made evident through either the supply or lack of finances.

“Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.”

Psalm 37:7

5. Borrowing presumes on the future. Along with the world, we assume that all will continue as it is and that our own, and the society's financial conditions, will remain stable.

"Go to now, ye that say, Today or tomorrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow." James 4:13 "Boast not thyself of tomorrow: for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth." Pro. 27: 1

6. Borrowing violates a scriptural command.

"Owe no man anything, but to love one another...." Rom. 13:8

This Scripture is very strong in the Greek, for it is given in a triple negative. The literal translation is: "Owe to no one, no not anything, nothing at all." Christians may argue, 'This verse isn't talking about money!' However, the context is important - the preceding two verses speak of paying taxes. The word 'anything' covers all, including money, which the context gives special emphasis to, with the exception of love which is owed to all.

7. Debt results in bondage to creditors. Debt means 'to owe or be under obligation'.

"...The borrower is servant to the lender." Pro. 22:7b "And there was a great cry of the people and of their wives ... 'We have mortgaged our lands, vineyards, and houses, that we might buy corn.... We have borrowed money for the king's tribute... and lo, we bring into bondage our sons and our daughters... neither is it in our power to redeem them.'" Neh.

5:1-5

8. We are to be free from earthly entanglements. In Hebrew, the word borrow means 'to entangle'. Can we be free to serve the Lord if we are bound to other men through financial entanglements?

"No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier." 2 Tim. 2:4

9. Borrowing evades self-examination. When God stops the flow of funds, it is time to seek His face, re-evaluate our priorities, and renew our faith in Him, not go to the bank. Borrowing evades His deeper purposes in our lives.

"And whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him, because we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight." 1 Jn. 3:22

10. Borrowing interferes with God's provision. God wants to give us a testimony in every area of our life. When we don't depend on Him, but rather the loan office for financial needs, we don't allow Him to work supernaturally in this area of our lives, miss a tremendous blessing ourselves, and also a real testimony for His name.

"For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew Himself strong in behalf of them whose heart is perfect towards Him" 2 Chr. 16:9

11. Borrowing may effectively remove the barriers to items God does not want us to have.

"Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts." James 4:3

12. Borrowing demonstrates discontentment with basics and the

simple life. Are we showing we are content when we borrow money for what He has not yet seen fit to provide a way for us to have? Covetousness means 'holding or desiring more, eager for gain, or greediness.' Contentment means, 'satisfactory, enough, or sufficient.' Are we being content with what we have when we go against God's principles and borrow in order to get more? The gross materialism of the world about us far too greatly influences our perception of what He would define as being basic needs.

"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment, let us therewith be content." 1 Tim. 6:6-8 "For I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." Phi. 4:11b "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, 'I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.'" Heb. 13:5 "But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints." Eph. 5:3

13. Borrowing weakens our faith in God.

"Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall He not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?" Mat. 6:30 "But without faith it is impossible to please God..." Heb. 11:6 "And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." Mat. 2 1:22 Are we of the household of faith giving witness to our faith and the power of our mighty God to the world as we go to the banker for

his provision? If we have faith enough to trust Christ for salvation, we should demonstrate it by trusting Him for our daily needs.

14. Borrowing stifles resourcefulness. There are countless ways God wants us to prove Him faithful as we seek Him for solutions to our financial trials.

"Again, the kingdom is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he hath, and bought it." Mat. 13:44-46 These verses show by Christ's examples that these merchants (business men) had enough collateral for a loan to purchase the field or pearl, but instead sold what they had and then bought them, rather than go into debt.

15. Borrowing devours God's resources through interest payments. This is the hidden trap of debt. For example, if someone borrows \$75,000 at 10% interest in a 30 year mortgage for a house, by the time the house is paid off they will have spent a total of \$256,000!

"He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon (money), who will commit to your trust the true riches?" Luke 16:10-11

16. Borrowing gives the illusion of independence. The important fact to remember is that we belong to the Lord, and therefore all our money and possessions also belong to Him. He wants His children to be totally

dependent upon Him for all their needs; in fact, one definition of sin is simply independence from God’.

“Beware that thou forget not the Lord thy God.... And thou say in thine heart, ‘My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth. But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for It is He that giveth thee power to get wealth....” Deut. 8:11, 17,18 “Who is he that saith, and it cometh to pass, when the Lord commandeth it not?’ Lam. 3:37

17. Borrowing promotes impulse buying and causes overspending. God wants His children to be good stewards of His money. Overspending and needing to borrow or use credit is a symptom of a lack of self control.

“He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase.” Eec. 5:10

18. Borrowing excludes help from other Christians. How often is God wanting a brother in the church to assist in the financial need of another instead of him being forced to borrow money?

“But by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may supply for their want that their abundance also may be a supply for your want: that there may be equality: As it is written, ‘He that had gathered much had nothing left over, and he that had gathered little had no lack.’” 2 Cor. 8:14-15

19. Borrowing can cause spiritual malnutrition. When we intentionally go into debt, we are burdened with a burden God did not place upon us. Our focus can often be misdirected away from the Lord and upon the burden, causing us to lose sight of the right priorities in our life.

“...the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.” Mat. 13:22 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.” 1 Tim. 6:10 “And He gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul” Psa. 106:15

20. Debt usually involves co-signing, which is condemned in Scripture.

“Be not thou one of them that strike hands, or of them that are sureties for debts.” Pro. 22:26 (also Pro. 6:1-5; 11:15, 12:8;17:18; 20:16)

In Luke 6:35 we are told; “. . .and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great...” Only when we lend, hoping for nothing in return, are we walking in the kingdom of heaven’s standard of true biblical giving.

Some Godly Scriptural Examples

The following men of great faith in God could have borrowed as easily as we can today, but did not out of conviction:

Noah - He certainly could have borrowed money to build the ark, and surely would have gotten it finished in shorter time. However, to borrow would have damaged his faith and message (Gen. 6,7)

Moses - He did not borrow money to build the tabernacle, but instead gave the people the opportunity to serve God by donating the materials and time for the work, (Exo. 25-27).

David - He spent his lifetime gathering the materials needed to build the temple, instead of borrow-

ing money to finish it before his death, thereby seeing the fruit of his labors. Solomon was then able to complete the temple debt free (1 Chr. 17, 22).

Nehemiah - He could have borrowed the needed money to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, but because of his faithful obedience to King Artaxerxes, the king provided the needed materials.

Paul - He could have borrowed money for his missionary journeys, or asked people to support him, but instead he provided for his simple needs as he went (Acts 18:3; 20:33-35).


What will our children remember about us? What will our grandchildren say about their forefathers? Will they remember the times we prayed and how God supernaturally supplied our needs? Or will they remember the day we went to see a banker or a friend for a loan?

Jesus said; "Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on... For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of these things. But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you." Luke 12:15-31 Borrowing money implies that we need some-

thing now which God cannot provide for us. We must have our consciences retrained to see how this is in fact serious, God-dishonoring worldliness. He has promised to meet the needs of His children, Only when we are willing to stand firm upon a conviction to not borrow money will the Lord be able to show Himself mighty on our behalf. One can be sure that this conviction will be tested, but it is only on the other side of the difficult test that God's glory will be manifest.

God is looking for men who will obey His principles of finance, and demonstrate to a skeptical and unbelieving world "that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that seek Him." Heb. 11:6 A clear demonstration of God's power and presence is what the world most desperately needs, and as Christians are willing to submit to God's principles in this area, He will be able to do just that through countless opportunities and testimonies.

The founder of the China Inland Mission, J. Hudson Taylor, said:

"God's work done in God's way will not lack God's support. He is just as able to supply funds ahead of time as afterward, and He much prefers doing so." 

Financial success does not depend on how much you earn, but on what you do with what you earn.

Music Soup

By Anne Sexton



“**M**usic Soup” may be a strange title for an article, but I think it measures out just right. Soup has many physically nourishing ingredients, which blend together to give us sustenance. I think in a lot of ways, music could be used as a spiritual comparative.

God wants us to have good things. We are in the midst of the growing season, where things are starting to appear in abundance. God blesses us in so many ways, and music is no exception. How joyful it is to add the flute, the lyre, the violin, or piano to our music soup. Psalm 33:2 says “Praise the Lord with harp, sing unto Him with the psaltery and an instrument of ten strings.” Different ingredients give us a richer recipe with which to praise Him. I have even heard a musician praising God through a bowed saw to the tune of Amazing Grace! I believe God wants us to make use of our talents to praise Him.

We need to be very careful to guard our ears and our hearts. Does the type of music we choose to partake in glorify God? Do we listen to music that is uplifting and edifying? Are the lyrics pleasing to God? Unfortunately, much of today’s secular music is full of vulgarity, immorality, and violence. Much of it is also based on sensual rhythms. We need to ask ourselves “Does this music edify God, or does it make us spiritually weaker?” Rotten ingredients can make us sick both physically and spiritually.

Used properly, music can uplift and enrich us. It can also spark the desire to be closer to God. Music can be a tool for sharing the gospel. At

times, words may utterly fail me. Often, I resort to a song to get a meaning across to somebody. In Ephesians 5:19, God calls us to speak to ourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in our hearts to the Lord. If we are continually worshipping the Lord in song, it makes it easier to share the Lord with others.

I did a controlled science experiment with plants once when I was in grade school. All of the plants were given the same basics at the start of the project. Each had the same type seed, container, fertilized soil, water, and lighting. Each was exposed to a different genre of music. The plant with ‘elevator’ music did moderately well with it’s growth, as did the one with country music. The plant ‘fed’ rock music did not fare nearly so well. The best growth was seen from the plant whose diet was enriched with soft classical music. At that time, I didn’t know enough to try good, sound, foundational Christian music. Perhaps that was a good thing... it might have grown to rival Jack’s beanstalk.

I realize this is only a poor example at best, because these plants didn’t have a soul. However, we do have a God-given soul. We need to use wisely the musical gifts He has given us, and guard what reaches our ears. Oh be careful little ears what you hear! We should make sure our “music soup” has only the finest ingredients. We are after all, nourishing the temple of God. We need to “sing unto the Lord a new song; play skillfully with a loud music” as it says in Psalms 33:3. Cast your eyes (and ears) upon Jesus, and make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

The Priceless Best

By Joy Martin

Did you know you can buy the best food in the world without *any* money? Do you wonder how? Perhaps, it doesn't make monetary sense, but it is true. Look at what God says to us through Isaiah.

Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Wherefore do ye spend money for *[that which is]* not bread? and your labour for *[that which]* satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye *[that which is]* good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.

Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, *[even]* the sure mercies of David. Isa. 55:1-3

So, how do you buy this good food without money? He makes it quite simple: hearken diligently unto the Lord. Now, listen closely to what He is saying. There is no need for you to be impoverished and eating poorly, even if you have no money to buy. You can delight your soul with bounty if you will only go to the King Himself and listen diligently to Him and He will give you to eat to your souls content.

Too often, folks in their quest to fill the hunger of their souls, look in the wrong places. They labor and spend money, but it does not satisfy and they are left the worse for their seeking, because they sought in the wrong place.

There is only one place to look for this filling food. It is in Jesus Christ! He said:

... my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven.

For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.

Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread.

And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. John 6: 32a- 35 &51

Wow! Talk about life-giving bread! If you feast on Jesus you will be satisfied and not only that, you will live forever! He gives us a simple recipe for enjoying the benefits of this wonderful Bread. He tells us to simply *come* and *believe*.

Why would you choose to eat garbage, when there is a meal fit for a king waiting for you? Perhaps, the garbage or even just second-best is what is within easy reach. Or maybe, that is all you can see, being surrounded by it. But, don't settle for less than the best. It is well worth your effort to reach out and seek for the best. Maybe you didn't know there was something better out there. It is also possible that you always ate junk, so that is what you are comfortable and familiar with and therefore are scared of change. Please, don't let that stop you from experiencing the rich rewards that come from leaving your comfort zone and tasting the very best.

Sometimes in certain situations the Lord may still be in the process of preparing His best for you. This will call for you to wait patiently. Then He can

serve you up something far superior than what He could have if you weren't willing to wait for it. Starvation won't be a problem while you are waiting for this special dish, because there is before you an abundant array of other good things for you to dip into and enjoy. When you finally taste the sweetness of that delicious fare, you'll know it was worth the wait and be glad that you refused the rubbish offered you.

Are you familiar with the story of the prodigal son in Luke 15? This son after foolishly spending all his money, found himself in a foreign country in the midst of a bad famine, having sunk so low that he was eating pig food to survive. He finally came to his senses.


And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!

I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,

And am no more worthy to be

called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. Luke 15:17-19

He rightly realized it was foolish to be starving, when he could be feasting in his father's house. Ah, but he had to be humble and admit that he had done wrong and return to his father's presence. So, the son headed home, but even before he got there, his father saw him and ran to warmly welcome his long lost son. His compassionate father would hear nothing of his son being his servant! He ordered a big party to be had to celebrate the return of his son who was now home and alive.

This is a beautiful picture of God's father-heart toward us, His lost, starving children. But, like in the story we do not need to stay lost and starving. Don't settle for scum or second-best, when the very best is before you. No, you can feast to your hearts content if you will just be humble and come and dwell in your Father's house, where there is more love and riches than you can ever imagine! 

"No race can prosper until it learns that there is as much dignity in tilling a field as in writing a poem."

—Booker T. Washington

"Let us never forget that the cultivation of the earth is the most important labor of man. When tillage begins, other arts follow."

—Daniel Webster



From our Readers:



Dear Martin family,

I enjoyed Joy's article on self-sufficiency and the article by Hannah Holter. We always dreamed of having our own land to grow our own food on. That seemed like an impossible dream, so I am very understanding of those who simply can't buy land, and therefore have no way to be self-sufficient.

But our impossible dream came true 2 years ago, when we bought a property with one acre. That might not seem like much to some people, but it's a dream come true for us because we can now care for fruit trees, plant all the vegetables we want, and grow healing herbs. Eventually we hope to be able to buy an acre or two nearby to grow grains and keep livestock.

Right now, that is just as impossible a dream as buying a home was not too long ago. But my youngest son, Jonathan, age 13, is really hanging on to that dream and learning everything he can about how to become self-sufficient and live of the land. He has big dreams, and instead of discouraging him with the news that it doesn't look likely that we could buy any more land any time soon, I am leaving his dreams in God's hands. Maybe God will be able to do more with his childlike faith than my doubts and uncertainty (also called being realistic).

The crazy thing about our having our dream come true and having the opportunity to make our one acre fruitful is the reactions of the neighbors to our kids working so hard on our land. I raised my kids to love working with the earth. When my oldest boys were 2, 3, and 4 years old, I was already reading through the Bible with them. As we went through the book of Gene-

sis I saw the strong emphasis on living off the earth. I wanted that for our family, but for 16 years, there was little we could do about it.

We did what we could with the one sixth of an acre we had (one third of which was the house, which we rented). I got the kids started planting vegetables and herbs. Many years we had very few dollars to spend on seeds, but we would wait until the stores had a sale on seed packets at 10 cents each, and then we would go in and let the kids choose their own vegetable seeds. Eventually they got into growing strawberries and fruit trees (dwarf fruit trees in pots- the landlord would not let us plant them in the ground).

When we came here, we had one acre of bare dirt. Most people in this area would see all that dirt as just weed potential, and would leave the weeds to grow and then use herbicides or just mow the weeds, or put it all in cement with a pool and lawn chairs. But our boys looked at that dirt and saw fruit trees, vegetable gardens, herb gardens, all waiting to be planted.

They dove in with eager hands, and worked very hard to make the earth fruitful. Our neighbors' view is why would you want to work so hard? Why not have some fun? They feel like we just don't want our kids to have any fun. But the reality is that we love working the earth. For us, to work the earth IS fun.

I recently asked my kids to tell me honestly, how did they feel most of the time they are working out here on the land. My kids know they can be honest with me, because I care about their feelings and would not be upset with them if they said, "Well, I don't enjoy

it much but I'm willing to do my part." But what they all said was that they are "absolutely thrilled" working outside on our acre.

It's so sad that people around us can't understand that. It's also sad that they so live for electronic entertainment that they rush home from work and dive into their houses so they can turn on the TV and start watching, and watch all evening until bedtime. They don't understand that there is more to life than just watching someone else, on a screen.

They are missing so much- the bird song in the early morning and late afternoon, new buds in the springtime, wildflowers, leaves falling in the fall, the sound of rain from the back porch, the soft breezes, migrating butterflies, cats at play, rabbits on the front lawn at dawn and dusk, sunrises and sunsets, summer night stars, the minty fragrance of mule fat bushes, the rustle of cottonwood leaves, the many changing dioramas in the sky.

When my boys dig, they see, hear, and smell all these things deeply, while the neighbors seem to look out their windows at us and see only dirt, shovels, work, sweat, and in their minds, "drudgery." At times it seems downright humorous, but other times it is sad and frustrating. We don't have nearby friends or neighbors who love working with the earth. It's something we mostly can only share between ourselves.

I am in a wheelchair, as you know, and sometimes feel very frustrated that I can't be down there on the ground with my hands caressing the earth around a new berry cane, so I think of my sons as very lucky to be able to do that. We are currently creating some raised beds that I can reach, so I will soon be able to get my own hands in

the earth, and I really look forward to that.

I already helped plant strawberries in one raised bed, and can reach down far enough to pick Swiss chard, which seems to grow back everlastingly. I am also able to pick wildflower seeds and spread them to places that are only growing weeds, and I planned out all our fruit trees when we first moved here, drawing the trees on the ground with an 8 foot stake. I actually could draw better circles than the kids by holding onto the stake and turning the wheelchair around in a circle from the middle, drawing outward.

We are training the fruit trees in a way that allows me to help look for diseased leaves, watch buds grow, test them, and pick them. I am also able to train and trim our grapevines, though I have a lot to learn in that area. (No matter how many books I read, I never seem to quite get it figured out.)

It is such an incredible privilege to be able to work with the earth! We have been here more than 2 years now, and I still can't go out the door without being in total awe of the miracles of God's fruitful earth! I feel such a great happiness outside on our acre, and often don't know how to explain it to others.

There's just something about the sky, the earth, the birds, animals, and growing things that just thrills me. I feel sad for people who can't yet have this, but most of all pity those who cannot even see the value of working with the earth when they have land that they could work. We live in a very darkened culture.

We hope to be able to buy a well pump very soon, which will enable us to fully water our fruit trees without holding back so as not to get our water turned off because the bills go to high. We have made an agreement with a

neighbor to use his well for free, since his well is an underground river, so there is unlimited supply, if we provide the well pump ourselves, which he is unable to do. Please pray with us for that, and to eventually be able to also put in a windmill or solar power cell so that we can also get off the power grid if need be.

I just wanted to share this with your readers in response to Joy's and Hannah's articles in the Boys' Bugle. My son Jonathan would like to begin writing for the Boys' Bugle. He is very excited about learning all he can about self-sufficiency now, while he has the time to, so that he can live well off the land when he is grown.

Blessings in Christ,
Joy Marie Dunlap
California

We would be delighted to receive Jonathan's writings. Send them on! —Ed.

Dear Ones,

Just a few lines to say hello and commend you for the fine comparison on pages 12 and 13 between the Olivet Discourse and Thessalonians. (Winter 2006) I think I knew this, basically, but the chart really brings it into focus.

1 Thessalonians 5:3, "For when THEY shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction will come upon THEM..." To whom did Paul refer by his use of the words they and them? I don't see any indication in the immediate context. I once supposed he meant all the wicked in the world, those who were not "brethren." But if we link this with the Olivet Discourse, it would tie in with the Jews and what happened in A.D. 70. I have noticed similar wording in the Old Testament,

they were saying peace, peace, etc. before the judgment fell upon them at that time.

God bless you and give you much peace and joy in serving Him.

Ralph Woodrow

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the faith,

Greetings in Jesus name, peace, and blessings be unto you all.

My name is Matthew Nichols. I live here in Bolivia with my wife Tanja and our 9 children. We have been in Bolivia since 1995 when we first trusted Jesus. My wife and I were traveling and seeking life. To make a long story short, God through His mercy revealed himself to us in Santa Rosa, Bolivia, where we met the Leonard Kropf family.

We lived two and a half years in Paraguay with an old order but independent Amish group. Then in 1998 returned to Bolivia to the Kropfs and we now live in a very remote area on the Madidi River. We enjoy this area very much. The people are very nice and the climate is mild. We are also the only Christian witness living in the whole region, although people are interested in the Gospel.

Leonard Kropf lives not too far from here in Ixianas and we have a lot of contact with him. He gave us some issues of "The Boys Bugle" which we appreciated much. I would be interested in getting to know you better.

We live mainly a self-sufficient life, growing and gathering almost all our food. We are also trying to be an example to the natives here by witnessing to them in word and through our Christian lives. We raise all sorts of animals and grow all kinds of crops. We do not have a team of oxen yet, but I have used them in the past and

Lord willing intend on farming with them here. Plowing or tilling is unheard of in this area, but I intend on showing our neighbors alternative forms of farming and making a living.

Most people here live from logging, floating the logs down the river, but we farm. It is a very fertile area. This area has very much fish, wild game, wood, chocolate (wild), and rubber. Although it is a good area to live independent and a simple life style, we are lonely for other mature Christian fellowship. There are a few families of us here in Bolivia that are Fundamental Christians.

Where we live we can easily make our living, by trading and bartering our products for other products. That is how most people do here, as many traders come here by river to trade for Brazil nuts, chocolate, wood, rubber, pigs, cheese, salt meat, chickens, corn and many other things. They bring motors, parts, fuel, clothing, salt, bullets, or anything you ask them to bring. Most people would rather trade than buy or sell.

Two of Leonard Kropf's girls are here with us. They teach school and help my wife with the children. This is just a brief summing up of us and our situation here. Please write back and ask anything you like.

Sincerely,
your readers and fellow laborers,
Matthew and Tanja Nichols
and family
Rurrenabaque - Beni
Bolivia, S.A.

Dear Martin family,

Greeting in Jesus name. Thanks for sending us the Boy's Bugle. I enjoy them very much.

I just wanted to send a note along

with Matthew Nichols' letter. To say hi, since I'm taking all their mail out to get mailed. I will bring back any mail they might have.

I live here with the Nichols family and teach school for their children. Twila and I have our house about 200 meters away from theirs. It's very cute.

I enjoy living out here in the wild country, but sometimes I would like to have more people around. Or at least would like to get out easier. It's a 4 or 5-day river trip just to get out to the nearest town. There are people living along the river.

The last trip I was on, we stopped nearly every night at someone's place. They let us use their fire (which usually had just gone out from cooking their supper.) to cook ours. They would put a few more sticks on the coals and soon have a fire ready. The reason we had to cook on other people's fires was because we forgot to bring along matches.

Twila and I will probably go with a big boat we heard is going up tomorrow or the next day. We'll stay with friends until the boat is ready to leave. We'll have to wait in a community about 1/2 day down stream from our place.

With love,
Charlotte Kropf

Leonard Kropf passed away July 14, 2006 from heart failure. He was 67 years old. He is survived by his wife, 13 children, and 31 grandchildren. See the Spring 2006 issue of the Heart and Home Harmony for a letter by his wife Franny about their life in Bolivia. Their address is:

*Ixiamas
Correos Central de Rurrenabaque
Beni, Bolivia, S.A.*

See story on next page.

In memory of Brother Leonard Kropf

A Lesson On Patience.

by Luke Martin

After a winter of tree planting in the Carolinas for the Leonard Kropf family, Leonard told me he bought an old school bus in South Carolina. He asked if he could ride along with me from Pa. to Tenn. when I go to south-western Tenn. to buy more fiberglass panels and pick up his bus on the way.

It sounded like a pleasant thing to do, especially since I enjoyed Leonard's company.

So off we went. It was the end of June and the further south we went the hotter it was. It was sometime in the afternoon that we arrived at the bus garage in South Carolina and the heat was almost unbearable.

Well we started up that bus and headed out. My son Daniel and I were following Leonard and his son, Ronny and were going thru a mountainous region when we noticed an oil mist on our windshield. I tried flagging Leonard down, but he noticed his oil pressure dropping at the same time and pulled over.

Oil was squirting out of a hole in the engine block. Alas what now! Here we were out in the middle of a sparsely populated area with no service stations anywhere close.

But wait a minute! There was a plug balanced on a piece of tubing just below the hole. Well, thanks to God, we soon had the plug back where it belonged and added motor oil and were on our way. But alas, now the bus sputtered and stopped on every hill. What is the matter? Bro. Leonard calmly said. "If it has spark, compression and fuel, it will run" and patiently studied the

situation and finally figured out that the gas pump was not delivering enough gasoline to the carburetor.

The old bus's hood hinged in the center. Leonard opened the side opposite the driver's seat and by having his son stand on the running board, and pouring a little gasoline in the carburetor whenever the bus sputtered, we climbed those mountains.

Leonard purchased an electric inline gas pump and we thought the problem was solved, but no the pump was too small or the weather too hot and that pump kept quitting. Leonard installed a second pump and by alternating pumps was able to proceed.

But much time was being wasted and I was to be at the factory by a certain day. So I went on ahead and did business. I bought fiberglass panels for Leonard for a greenhouse he was building. He wanted to haul them home to Maine in the bus.


The owner gave me permission to stay after hours until Leonard showed up, and load that night when it was cooler. They came and we started to load and of course the police showed up and stopped us. After clearing us with the owner, we went back to the hot work. It was 102° F. at midnight!

Not being able to find the right gas pump for the bus we found a welding shop and had a little weld put on the lever that works the fuel pump. That only lasted a few miles and the now heavily loaded bus was choking off at intersections in the middle of cities and anywhere it needed more gas. So out comes the gas can and a boy standing

on the running board pouring gas into the carburetor. All this while Leonard is a calm and happy man, no swearing or grumbling. He was not upset or excited. He seemed to enjoy trusting God to take care of everything.

I hoped to stop on the Cumberland Plateau to visit Joshua Bauman. So I left Leonard to limp along as best as he could and went ahead. By the time Leonard caught up with me a half a day later, Joshua had located a mechanical

fuel pump for the bus. Finally the bus ran like a top, purring along at 45-50 mph.

In southern Virginia, I had a flat tire on my trailer. Leonard kept going and got so far ahead of us that we never caught up with him in 500 miles even though I was going 55-65 mph. Leonard arrived at my house in Bethel, Pennsylvania about 10 minutes before I got there. 

Do It Now

If you have work to do,
Do it now.

Today the skies are clear and blue,
Tomorrow clouds may come in view
Yesterday is not for you,
Do it now.

If you have a song to sing
Sing it now.
Let the tones of gladness ring
Clear as the song of a bird in spring
Let each day some music bring
Sing it now.

If you have some kind words to say,
Say them now.
Do some kindness while you may,
Loved ones will not always stay,
Say them now.

If you have a smile to show
Show it now.
Make hearts happy, roses grow,
Let friends around you know
The love you have before they go,
Show it now.

—Charles R. Skinner

What are you doing?

Do you want to be like
that the rest of your life?

I plead with you therefore, brethren, by the compassions of God, to present all your faculties to Him as a living and holy sacrifice acceptable to Him. This with you will be an act of reasonable worship. And do not follow the customs of the present age, but be transformed by the entire renewal of your minds, so that you may learn by experience what God's will is--that will which is good and beautiful and perfect.

Romans 12:1-2 WNT

...the Truth will
make you free.
John 8:32

The Void Between Intent And Performance

“We sing ‘Sweet Hour of Prayer’—
and content ourselves with a few minutes of prayer each day, if
even that much.

We sing ‘Onward, Christian Soldiers’—
and wait to be pushed into the Lord’s service.

We sing ‘O For a Thousand Tongues’—
without rightly using the tongue we have.

We sing ‘Blest be the Tie that Binds’—
and let the least little offense sever it.

We sing ‘Serve the Lord With Gladness’—
and gripe about all we have to do.

We sing ‘I Love to Tell the Story’—
and never mention it all year to our friends and associates.

We sing ‘Cast Thy Burden on the Lord’—
and worry ourselves into nervous breakdowns.

We sing “The Whole Wide World for Jesus’—
and never invite our next-door neighbors to church.

We sing “Throw out the Life Line’—
And content ourselves with throwing out a fishing line on Sunday.

Author Unknown

(Continued from page 29)

Our son, Timothy felt better after he added organic coconut oil to his diet.

To stay healthy or lose weight, I also believe it is important to not eat too much sugar, especially refined and artificial sugars.

Corporations interested in money have given us much misinformation and new “food.” Along with it came a dramatic increase in heart disease and a host of other problems.

Now we are finding out that many of the old ways of preparing and preserving food are healthy. Raw fermented foods have beneficial bacteria and enzymes. Sourdough and other fermented foods are higher in nutrients and easier assimilated.

We are learning how to preserve

our sauerkraut raw, make salt brined pickles, and prepare field corn with ashes or lime water. I finally learned how to make good sourdough bread, thanks to Laurel Robertson and friends for the instructions for Flemish Desem Bread in their book, *Laurel’s Kitchen Bread Book*.

Nourishing Traditions, The Cookbook that Challenges Politically Correct Nutrition and the Diet Dictocrats by Sally Fallon with Mary G. Enig, Ph.D. contains much useful information. *Wise traditions* in Food, Farming, and the Healing Arts, the quarterly of the Weston A. Price Foundation, PMB #106-380 4200 Wisconsin Ave. NW Washington, DC 20016, promotes education and research, the benefits of raw milk and other natural food, and warns of the dangers of eating soy.

The Children's Challenge

To Charity and Cheerfulness

God Spared Me!

By Larisa Martin

I reached the bottom of the tree covered hill, with a stick in my hand. I looked over the field. The morning sun sparkled on the soaking wet grass. A few deer saw me and took cover in the trees. Across the meadow I spotted the cows. I worked my way across the field. The tall wet grass was difficult to walk through. I reached the cows. Using the stick I gently tried to move the cow to the barn.

I then noticed the bull coming toward me. I wasn't very concerned. I had respect for the bull even though he had never bothered anyone before. The cows went into a clump of trees, and the bull kept coming. I struck him with the stick, but he kept coming. I would keep him at the end of the stick but he would not leave. I was able to get the cows heading toward the barn. Time seemed to stop. I didn't think to run from the bull. In stead, I hit him again and again. I fought and fought. Ever so slowly, I was backing him toward the barn. I was getting hot and my energy was running out. I couldn't keep this up much longer. God was helping me. To my relief, the bull turned around and trotted off with the rest of the cows. I followed them slowly.

My relief was short lived; the

bull turned and started for me again. Once more I fought. Once more to my relief, he turned and walked with the rest. Almost to the barn, he turned again on me in earnest. He dropped his head to the ground and began to paw and horn the ground. I tried to escape but when I moved he was right there. I tried again and again to get away. I was about to drop.

He saw a wagon setting there. He took his horns and lifted the bed right off its wheels! I once more tried to get away but he immediately turned on me again. I was beginning to shake, and I know I could not last much longer. I was so close to the barn, but I could not get away from him. No one knew I had went for the cows. Just as I was almost too tired to go any more, our horses stepped between me and the bull; I took my chance and slipped away. I quickly chased the three milk cows into the barn and tied them up.

I went to find dad; I found him at the shop. Suddenly I burst into tears. I realized how close I was to death. The bull did not get me! I wasn't scared until the whole thing was over. I thank God for sparing me. ❧

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.

Here in the North Country

Dear Friends,

Greetings from the North Country! We are having a wonderful bounty this summer. The Lord is blessing all around. We would like to tell you about a special blessing that came in July.

Joshua Leon Martin was born to Daniel and Mendy Martin on July 1st. He was born here in Potsdam at the Hospital. It was quite a miracle that we thought we should share a little about with our readers. Daniel and Mendy really wanted him to be born at home, but it was almost as if a voice was whispering, "Don't do it. Something is wrong. Go to the hospital." The Lord had everything in control. The staff there helped wonderfully and Joshua was born late that night. Due to complications though, Mendy came close to going home to be with the Lord, but He intervened and she is now well and home with her baby. Her recovery will be slow, but the Lord will provide. Praise be to God for His wonderful works. Joshua is welcomed by his brothers and extended family.

The seasons are fast changing here in the North Country. The gardens are at their peak and we are having some cooler weather. Our shelves are filling up with goods for the winter and our tables are well supplied with wonderful food.

We are finally ready to print this combined summer/fall issue. Sorry we are so late. We've been busy with bountiful blessings.

Tomorrow morning Luke and Rachel plan to leave for Pennsylvania to attend a 35th wedding anniversary reunion. The 61 couples that got married in 1971 in the Weaverland Mennonite conference are invited. I am not aware of anyone from any conservative anabaptist group that is divorced. IT IS POSSIBLE to obey God's law of marriage—what God has joined let not man put asunder. Any present sufferings are not worthy to be compared with the blessings of obeying God.

May God bless you.

The Martin Family



Heart and Home Harmony

156 Newton Rd
Potsdam, N.Y. 13676

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Parishville Christian Church

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

On May 28, Micah Luke Rosenbarker was 1 year old. His mother, Dawn wrote this poem the night before while getting ready for a cookout the next day to celebrate his birthday. At his birth, the cord was so tight around his neck that it had to be cut immediately.



When he was born he was limp and did not breathe and his heart rate was 40. Thanks to those who continued to try to resuscitate him and thanks to God for allowing him to stay with us. Micah means, "Who is like the Lord?"

Micah Luke

Who is like the Lord?
Oh little one so new,
You're hiding from our view
While God is making you.

Who is like the Lord?
The miracle of birth,
What's a baby worth
When he comes to earth?

Who is like the Lord?
Life is in God's hand.
Whatever his command
Will happen in this land.

Who is like the Lord?
How we pray and cry,
Oh baby please don't die.
Must we say goodbye.

Who is like the Lord?
How we cried and prayed.
The Lord came to our aid.
Our baby boy has stayed.

Who is like the Lord?
Our hearts are full of praise.
God works in wondrous ways
And blesses all our days.

Who is like the Lord?
To fill our home with light,
Sunny smiles so bright,
As well as sleepless nights.

Who is like the Lord?
We'll sing a happy song;
He's bright, healthy, strong.
To God does praise belong.

Who is like the Lord?
Oh may we teach him right
That he may be a light
And love the Lord with all his
might.



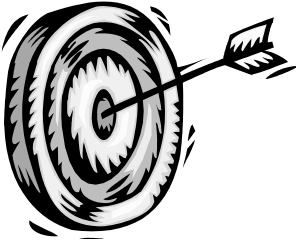
Which will be your testimony?

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: 2 Timothy 4:7

Or

“I am a fail-

By Luke and Rachel



Sin = missing the mark

“**W**ait a minute! It’s not my fault that...”

Our nature doesn’t like the thought of responsibility.

What is responsibility? If we take the word apart, it is the ability to respond. Since God made us with the ability to respond, we are responsible, which means we are liable, answerable, and accountable for the result, good or bad, of our responses. The word responsible is often used to describe a good response. It is synonymous with reliable, dependable, capable, competent, honest, accountable, and trustworthy.

Our natural response is selfishness. And bearing the stamp of God’s image, we aspire to be like gods with power to control our environment. This natural selfishness and pride bring destruction. To be a success, we must be able to respond on a higher plain—a plain of love and honor, of sacrifice and humility, of forgiveness.

There is no love without responsibility. Love is a response to fulfill an-

R It’s Your
responsibility

other’s need. “*I love you dear. Will you marry me?*” To grow, love requires a response to the need.

What is our responsibility?

There is no greater love than God’s love. It requires a “Yes, Lord!” Therefore, our first responsibility is to honor, love, and obey God. We have all failed and come short of the glory of God. He offers to us His mercy, love, goodness, and power through the sacrifice of His Son. Therefore, we are responsible to ascend to that high plain of love, honor, and forgiveness toward our fellowmen by receiving Christ and putting Him on the throne of our heart in place of Self.

The God who is responsible for the glorious harmony of the universe has given to man responsibility over certain spheres. He has given man dominion over the earth and its creatures and responsibility to till the ground. (Gen 2:15) He has ordained that husbands are responsible to provide for and lead their

families. (Eph. 5:22-33, 1 Tim. 5:8) Wives are to be a helpmeet to their husbands. Parents are responsible for their children. Children are commanded to obey their parents. (Eph. 6:1-4) We should be our brothers' keeper. (Gen. 4:9&10, 1 John 3:11) We are responsible to spread the good news of the Kingdom. (Mark 16:15) He has ordained that pastors be chosen to oversee the administration of His word (Titus 1:5, Acts 20:28, Heb. 13:7, 1 Pet. 5:1-3) and that men would rule nations and oversee affairs of men. (Rom. 13)

We need responsibility. Without it we would be in bad shape and most miserable. Without it we would never be successful.

What is success?

Those who respond to their lower nature, think that success is to possess that which feeds their passions, profits, and pride. (see 1 John 2:15&16) But in the end it only leaves them wanting more. The one that is only successful in material things, is really a failure. **For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Mark 8:36**

To those who respond to the Creator, success is doing what one was created to do. Success is being real, being in harmony with and promoting truth, fulfilling our mission and leaving the world a better place. Spiritual and moral success is abundant life, full of love, joy, and peace.

Life may seem unfair. One is given much goods and available resources while another receives nothing. Some are placed among responsible people who teach necessary knowledge and skills so they can provide for themselves and their own and help others. Others are given knowledge but not much that is useable to them and still others are given little of any knowl-

edge. Some are talented and healthy; some are disabled. Some are cheered on and encouraged to use their full potential and pointed to the Source of wisdom and strength. Others are punched and blamed and bounced around and used by irresponsible people venting their passions. Then they are dumped, their dignity damaged and their personhood and purity plundered. Some simply feel unloved or disrespected.

If a person who has been given much in many areas, uses 1% of what was given him, he may appear successful to many. Another who uses 100% of the tiny bit that he has received to gain that much more, may be scorned by many as someone that doesn't amount to much. Who was more successful? See Christ's parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30.

If you know how to show love and respect, you are successful.

If you do not give up faith, you are not a failure.

What causes failure?

Did you ever say, "I am a failure"? I have. And I have heard many others say it, though not always in those words. Did you ever feel that way? If you did, you know what a sickening, hopeless feeling it is.

Failure is caused by a lack of knowledge and sense of responsibility, lack of ability, or refusal to learn from those who can help us. We are most sure to fail in the end if we do not respond to God, the One who truly knows it all and can enable us.

I am the Vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. John 15:5 MKJV. We fail until we come to the end of our Self

and stop trying on our own strength. And many fail because they expect religion or a man or group to solve their problems.

We fail if we try to hide our ignorance by avoiding those who know more than we do, instead of admitting our ignorance and seeking instruction.

We are more likely to fail if we seek the company of those whose irresponsibility makes us feel successful. We fail if we put others down so that we feel more successful. It's called self-justification by character assassination.

Why do we not properly sense our responsibility? Because we do not discern the feelings and needs of our children, parents, husbands, wives, brothers, sisters, friends, and enemies. Why are we insensitive to the needs of others? Because we have been hardened. Likely we do not know it, because, if we knew it, many of us would seek to change.

Sin hardens us and takes us out of control. When we are focused on fulfilling our own lusts, we won't see other's needs. Also, sins against us can harden us and leave us feeling out of control. Maybe we aren't one of those who have been treated like a rag to be discarded, but all sin leaves its mark. Do not underestimate the power of words and actions, especially on young impressionable souls. If we have denied our pain and frozen our feelings, we do not realize how numb we are to the feelings of others. We've been through it and we survived. But underneath is that "knowledge" that we are a failure and it drives us to prove that we are successful—a setup for failure.

Ones who have thus been deceived and saddled with shame go through life interpreting things said and done to them in the light of that

"knowledge." Even a compliment may be taken as an insult. Or he may act like he doesn't know what to do with it, as if it doesn't belong to him. Every little "proof" that he is a failure is upsetting enough to cause him to thoroughly berate himself. Sensitive, focused on self, and hardly able to receive correction, he tends to become as he thinks—a failure.

So you see, at times we fail because others have failed us. That does not excuse us but it does make us angry and if we harbor that anger, we are sure to fail some more. If we do not know that we have anger stuffed away in our heart or that we have taken the blame or shame for another's wrong, it will spring up again to trouble us.

If we do not realize our God given worth and we expect to fail, we will tend to find an excuse and cop out of our responsibilities. Those who drug their senses to help escape that sickening, hopeless feeling may become completely irresponsible.

Some fail in one area and try to make up for it in another. One example, we may give a gift to make up for our absence or for a verbal slashing. But none of that takes away our responsibility, and the hole, the pain that our irresponsibility leaves, is still there as big as ever, whether or not we see it.

We can't escape our God given responsibility. If we do not succeed, we are still responsible—for a gap, a rent, a wound, a mess, or a waste.

We are responsible to make sure that the ones we offend understand that we are sorry and to make restitution as far as possible. But we are not responsible for other's failures, whether we offended them or they offended us. Don't allow them to convince you that you are. We only compound our failures, if we grovel or abject our author-

ity to power hungry manipulators. Most of us became power hungry manipulators before we were two years old, unless we were blessed with parents who trained us to be different.

When we fear failure and feel out of control, we automatically try to regain control. We may push our responsibilities on others or try to take over theirs or try to make them fulfill their responsibilities. Trying to take control of other's responsibilities is sure to fail. We have enough with our own. If we lay down our quest for power, we can find it in the Holy Spirit. He gives us the power to do what He requires of us.

We fail because we do not see our responsibility or we scorn it or we do not see where there is help or we refuse it. God instituted His church to help us. He sets each member in the body as it pleases Him. (1 Cor. 12:18) What is your and my responsibility in it? How many see their responsibility and take it serious enough? He trusts us to take the honor of His name to depict His mercy, love, beauty, power, and harmony to a world mired in failure. But too many of us are still wallowing around and in our need to feel in control, we try to take over and end up forming a club and calling it the Church. Our eyes need to be opened to see the mess our irresponsibility is making. Let us tremble at His Word, and let Christ be the responsible One as Head of the church.

You know, when all else fails, read the instructions. Those details of the Bible that many ignore or explain away, may add up to failure. What do we expect? If we follow the world's way, we reap what they reap.

But some who religiously pay attention to many points should heed Christ's advice. **Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay**

tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone. Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel. Matt. 23:23-24

Blind minds are powerless. If we don't see that we have failed, we will be a failure. **And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.** Luke 18:9-14

We fail if we compare ourselves among ourselves and compete with each other for popularity and recognition. What an exhausting way to live! It leaves us no energy and ability to give our honest and worthwhile contribution to the Kingdom.

In the Bible we read about the failures of the Israelites. Paul tells us it is written for our instruction and warning. (1 Cor. 10:11). **So then let him who thinks he is standing securely beware of falling.** 1 Cor. 10:12 Weymouth NT.

When we've come a long way and we are coasting along smoothly, and especially if we are looking at an-

other's failure, but not in a sense of being warned, our next step just might be in the same direction. The feeling that "I have arrived," can easily settle on us unawares, but it spells failure.

Then Paul goes on and says in the next verse, **No temptation has you in its power but such as is common to human nature; and God is faithful and will not allow you to be tempted beyond your strength. But, when the temptation comes, He will also provide the way of escape; so that you may be able to bear it.** 1Cor 10:13 WNT. Therefore we can go on....

From shame to glory.

We can go through life feeling quite snug—until our failure is revealed to us. And then, that sickening feeling. But thank God that it was revealed to you!

So you have failed? Skip the destructive anger, the blame game, the self-beating. Get a proper sense of your responsibility so you can submit to what God has made you responsible to and assert your authority over what God has made you responsible for and release all else. Without an understanding of your responsibility, you'll be wasting your time, ignoring needs, or straining at "gnats" and "beating" around on others unjustly, trying to straighten them out without knowing how they are feeling and what their true needs are. Get a grip on proper judgment, mercy, and faith toward God and others, so you can see which is your realm of control and responsibility, and which is theirs or the Holy Spirit's.

Did you ever fix anything without knowing what is wrong or arrive at the right place without knowledge of how to get there? Did you ever overcome your failures by blaming them on others? Be serious about searching out

the truth. Use the mirror of God's word and be severely honest with yourself. Respond to the Spirit and allow His light to shine in and root out any dark secrets, anger, bitterness, selfishness, and pride that are hindering you.

Give to Jesus the guilt for every thing **you have done** that was a failure. There is no shame in saying to those you have wronged, "I am sorry. I was wrong." The shame is in not saying it.

If anything was done to you that makes you feel like you are a failure, do as Jesus did. ...**who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame...** Hebrews 12:2. In other words, face reality, refuse the shame, accept the pain, give it to Jesus, forgive, and be free—free to make good.

Any task is more successfully accomplished if we are excited and delighted to tackle it. We won't be as likely to fall asleep on the job or be distracted. That is why God requires us to rejoice and put our all into our calling in His Kingdom. ...**for the joy of the LORD is your strength.** Neh. 8:10

He commands us to delight in Him and love Him with our whole heart, soul, mind, and strength, not only for His pleasure, but also for our pleasure. (Psalm 37:4, Mark 12:30)

I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou

mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eye-salve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Revelation 3:15-19

Those lukewarm, sleepy ones do not fight a good fight, finish the course, or keep the faith. The cold ones are more likely to respond to the warmth of God's love and be kindled to passionate, loving service, even enduring unpleasantness for the success he sees ahead. If you have virtues that endure, that gold tried in the fire, white raiment, and eye salve, you will be suc-

cessful, regardless of what anyone thinks or would have you believe!

We can come up with valid excuses as to why what we *did* was a failure but there is no excuse to *be* a failure. However many times I or you have failed in each and every responsibility, if we see and admit that, "I have failed," then move on in correction, we will never need to say, "I *am* a failure."

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Phi. 4:13
HAVE FAITH! Use whatever little or much was given to you to further God's Kingdom. It's your responsibility. Don't avoid it. You need it. ☐

Gimme Some Real Food

Butter and honey shall he (Jesus)
eat... Isa 7:15

Some years ago we bought a dog that was due to whelp soon. She had already raised quite a few litters and must have been run down from a poor diet. We were disappointed when she only had two puppies, one of which was deformed and soon died. The lone survivor grew and got fat and fatter and fatter. Someone told us to cure the problem by feeding the puppy more! She explained that he is starving for good nourishment so he keeps eating. After feeding him and the mother a high nutritional supplement, the puppy became a healthy size.

I tried for years to lose just a few pounds. Often I would gain instead. My diet was fairly good. I never believed the "science" that said margarine is better for your heart than butter. Still I was affected by the "fat is bad" hype and tried to keep my consumption to a minimum. I've been hearing more

about the importance of good fat for good health. Since I eat more good fats, mainly cream and butter, my weight has gone down a notch and my stomach is satisfied.

Good fats are:

- Butter, esp. grass fed animals
- Fish oil
- Extra virgin olive oil
- Coconut & palm oil, unrefined
- Small amounts of some kinds of pressed vegetable oils
- Animal fat, esp. grass fed

Bad fats are:

- Margarine
- Vegetable shortening
- Refined vegetable oils
- Heated polyunsaturated oils
- Rancid fats

(Continued on page 20)

Timely Tips

We thought it would be helpful to include some useful tips to better manage the resources God has given us. It is prudent for us to make the most of the blessings with which God has entrusted us. To do this, many of us will need to implement some changes. It is important to remember not to get discouraged in our efforts. We should learn from our mistakes and move forward, confident in our own ability to succeed backed by the power of God. If we take two steps forward, we are still moving closer to our goal... even if we have to take one step back every now and then. Setting goals to institute time and money saving tips will give us a sense of direction!

- ◆ Financial success does not depend on how much you earn, but on what you do with what you earn.
- ◆ Set priorities and goals. Plan and make lists. Live and rejoice in each new day. Concentrate on the most important and be flexible. Pray and study the Bible and be thankful.
- ◆ Learn to say no. Do not allow any thing or activity to distract you from your goals. Do what God wants you to do. Do not let things and people control you and steal your time and resources.
- ◆ Avoid impulse buying. Shop with a list rather than shop as entertainment.
- ◆ Buy in bulk—if it is cheaper and if you can use that amount or you can divide it among friends.

- ◆ Pennies and minutes add up. Make use of your minutes. If you don't have time to clean the bathroom, clean the sink.
- ◆ Give gifts of time and talent. We should not use money as a standard criteria to judge a person's worth or the value of a gift.
- ◆ Barter goods and services. Stretch your dollars by thinking of ways, and with whom you could exchange goods or services instead of paper money. This would not only help you out, but it could really help another person also.
- ◆ Junk food can cost you more than money.
- ◆ Save leftover soap pieces, too small for use. Then make soap jelly by pouring boiling water over them in a jar. Use this jelly for delicate washables.
- ◆ When you wash your hair, use a few tablespoons of vinegar in the final rinse water. It leaves your hair manageable without the expense of conditioner.
- ◆ Brush your teeth with baking soda and/or hydrogen peroxide.

We hope that these tips have been helpful in continuing down the road of good stewardship with the resources God has blessed us with. If you, dear readers, have some timely tips you would like to share with us, please feel free to pass them along. As time and space allows, we will include them in future issues. ☩

---Rachel and Anne

The example that our children see in us will speak so loudly that they will not hear if we try to teach them differently. Hopefully our children see us working honestly, spending wisely, and ready to give to help others. Set your priorities carefully because they will likely become your children's priorities. Our priorities determine what we do, not only in finances, but also in every area of our lives.

As soon as they are old enough to want to help, let them help with something. At least let them think they are helping. As they grow, increase their responsibilities. As they become able, they *need* to be, and know that they are, a part of the success of the workings of the household to which they belong. They should be shown appreciation for their contribution to that success.

Children that are not required, or not allowed, to work at home are given a handicap that is hard to overcome.

We never gave our children regular allowances or paid them for regular chores. Occasionally we paid them a little for an incentive to complete a tedious job. We shared with them the profits from our greenhouse business. The older ones who helped the most with the business of course got more.

When they were little, all money they received was put in a piggy bank that they could not reach or open themselves. It was saved or they could use it to help others. As they got older, they kept it in their wallet or invested it in their own business project or it was put in our account and the amount was kept track of on a paper in a file. They could draw from it or add to it as they wished and when they went on their own, the balance was given to them.

We never charged our children board. They helped with the work of the upkeep of the place and the growing of our food. But if an older son was mostly working in his own business and not helping much anymore with the chores at home, he was encouraged to give his sisters a big tip or a favor, like fix her car, for washing his clothes, cleaning, and cooking his meals.

From the time they were approximately eight, they were given a place to grow their own garden. They could grow whatever they wanted. Mostly it went to our table but if they had the opportunity, they could sell their produce. Other projects they have taken up were raising sheep, dogs, turkeys, and as they got older, taking over the sawmill and greenhouses and doing various construction and services for others.

Once, when a new baby joined our family, Luke divided the household work into four categories and the four able girls were each made responsible for one category for one week. I was the helper and supervisor. Jobs were rotated weekly. At present, the two girls at home and I take turns doing the meals, laundry, or cleaning for a week. Of course we need to be flexible.

When they are young, provide boundaries and controls. As you teach and train them to control themselves, gradually let them have more control of their lives. Gradually provide them with more opportunities to make their own decisions. Try to give them opportunities to use their talents.

Time spent teaching your children to work is a valuable investment for you and them. Find what works for you in your situation. Find something profitable (it doesn't have to make money) for them to do. Trust God to

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But if any provide not
for his own, and specially
for those of his own
house, he hath denied the
faith, and is worse than an
infidel (unbeliever).

1 Timothy 5:8