

The Boys' Bugle

Calling all young men to the service of Christ

Vol. 6, Number 3

Winter 2007



Welcome to The Boys' Bugle

This issues theme

“Honor”

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Send to:

The Boys’ Bugle
156 Newton Rd.
Potsdam, N.Y. 13676
theboysbugle@yahoo.com
315-265-0026
www.green-trust.org/TBB/
Notice “TBB” is in Capitals.

The Planned Theme for the

Next Issue. Forgiveness

Please send us your contribution before February 28 to get it here in time for the next issue. Thank-you.

“For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” Matthew 6:14-15

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On the Cover:

A picture of the oil press we bought. It isn't fully set up in this picture. There is a big auger in there that squashes the seeds so hard the oil comes out. It's kind of like a big meat grinder. You can see part of the Changfa diesel to the right. Read more about it in the Editor's Desk.



Editor's Desk



Dear Readers,

I am back again. We had a good summer. The crops did well. The stand did well. My fryer oil adventure is doing well now. But there was a time when it wasn't doing so well. I tell about it in my story on page 8. And best of all, my walk with God is doing well.

My brother Daniel decided to buy an oil press for pressing oil out of oil seeds like sunflowers, canola, oil seed radish, flax, etc. We're hoping to mainly press oil for cooking, baking, and such. I expect the fresh pressed unprocessed oil will taste a lot better than the stuff you buy from the store. We also want to be prepared to be able to press oil for engine fuel too. We bought a press that is made in China. I like to buy locally, but it seems like the Chinese press was the only one available that is good for doing the kind of pressing we want to do. We also got a 12 HP Changfa (Chinese) diesel engine to run the press. It's a neat engine. It has a water kettle for cooling like the old hit-and-miss engines have. To start it, you hold the decompression while you crank it by hand. Once it's up to speed, you let the decompression off and it starts. We plan to bolt the press and engine to a skid so we can move it around with the skid loader. Like that we should be able to do custom pressing. We still haven't run the press yet so we still don't know how well it will work.

I was thinking about how God promised to the Children of Israel to bring them into the land of Canaan, Exodus 3:17. But then because of their continual murmuring and complaining, God was provoked to anger and they

didn't receive the promise. (Numbers 14:32-35). It wasn't God's fault for he was able to fulfill his promise. It was because of their unbelief that they didn't get the promise. (Hebrews 3) Only Joshua and Caleb made it into the Promised Land. This sounds pretty scary. All through the Bible the important thing is that we trust in God. If we believe, we will not be condemned. But if we believe not, we are already condemned. (John 3:18)

Now why do we think that we are any different than the children of Israel? I find myself very quickly forgetting about all the great things God did for me in the past and then murmuring and complaining just like the children of Israel.

Then I remembered Hebrews 8:7-13. We see in these verses that there was a problem with the covenant that the Children of Israel were under. It didn't get them to the Canaan Land. It was the covenant of law of if you do these things you will live, (Romans 10:5). But as the law will do, it will kill you. (Romans 7). So what hope is there for us?

We see though that God has now made a new covenant for us. We are not under that covenant that didn't get the children of Israel into the Land of Canaan. We are under a new and better covenant. What is this new covenant like?

God will put his laws in our minds, and will write them in our hearts. And the Lord will be our God, and we will be his people. That sounds to me like God filling us with His Spirit and living in us. So instead of Moses teaching us the law, God teaches us himself. The Spirit has inspired the writing of the Bible. I believe the Bible is very important to know. It even says the scrip-

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WHY and HOW We Honour Our Parents

by Bro. David Cohen

The world's authorities consider a child who turns 18 to be no longer accountable to their parents, but what does Scripture say? Likewise, church leaders often say a child is not accountable to their parents if the parents are unconverted. Then, on the other extreme, there are religious authorities who expect adult children to obey their parents' every command, including staying in a church which causes them to disobey God. It is hoped that this article will bring our hearts and lives into balance to the whole counsel of God, that we may show a Christ-like attitude to our relatives and all who look upon us.

The Promise

*Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; (Eph 6:2, KJV). What is that promise? Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. (Ex. 20:12). If we honour our parents, we will do things which will preserve our lives, from obeying their command not to play in the road to strongly considering their counsel on who to marry. If we do the opposite of honouring, we will get the opposite of life. Notice in the very next chapter. *And he that curseth his father, or his mother, shall surely be put to death (Ex 21:17)* Whether we are stoned by the elders as in times of old, or we just bring on our own premature death by riotous living, the result is the same. The promise of death to those who curse parents is as sure as the promise of life is to those who honour their parents. What does "honour" mean, and at what age do we stop doing it?*

Adults are expected to honour their parents

Does God say when we turn 18, we no longer need to honour our par-

ents? *Ye shall fear every man his mother, and his father, and keep my sabbaths: I am the LORD your God (Lev 19:3).* Notice, it says "man", not "child". Following is an example of Jesus telling the scribes and Pharisees (who were adults) that they needed to honour their parents with their substance, rather than to give it to the church, even though the Church Rules allowed them to. (This appears to be talking about adults. Children would not be giving to either their parents, nor to the church.)

Then came to Jesus scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying, Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread. But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition? For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death. But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition. Ye hypo-

crites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. And he called the multitude, and said unto them, Hear, and understand: (Matt 15:1-10) Yes, hear and understand! Jesus said to the scribes and Pharisees (adults) that they were not honouring their parents, and that they needed to.

Honour means an attitude of reverence

Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. (Ex. 20:12) This verse was originally written in the Hebrew language. The meaning of the original words gives a much more complete understanding of what God is saying to us. “Honour” in Hebrew is scf (kaw-bad', Strong's #3513), which can mean: to be **heavy**, to make **weighty**, and be **chargeable**. That is to say, we ought to put a lot of weight in what our parents say, be accountable to them regarding their desires for us, and to consider and speak of them with admiration.

Let us examine some other examples of the same Hebrew word translated into its different English meanings: *But the former governors that had been before me were chargeable unto the people* (Neh. 5:15). *But the hand of the LORD was heavy upon them of Ashdod, and he destroyed them, and smote them with emerods, even Ashdod and the coasts thereof.* (1 Sam 5:6). *So they sent and gathered together all the lords of the Philistines, and said, Send away the ark of the God of Israel, and let it go again to his own place, that it slay us not, and our people: for there was a*

deadly destruction throughout all the city; the hand of God was very heavy there (1 Sam. 5:11).

Now, let's contrast this with the other verse that talks about taking our parents lightly: *And he that curseth his father, or his mother, shall surely be put to death* (Ex 21:17). The Hebrew word for “curseth” is kke (kaw-lal', Strong's #7043), which can mean to **make light**, **trifling** (make small or unimportant in your own eyes), or to **despise**.

Here are some examples of that Hebrew word translated differently: *And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him* (1 Kings 16:31). *And he went in unto Hagar, and she conceived: and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her eyes* (Gen. 16:4) *For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not* (1 Sam 3:13).

Wherefore ye shall make images of your emerods, and images of your mice that mar the land; and ye shall give glory unto the God of Israel: peradventure he will lighten his hand from off you, and from off your gods, and from off your land (1 Sam 6:5).

Some good verses to understand the difference between “honour” (kaw-bad') and “curse” (kaw-lal') are those which have both Hebrew words in them: *And the young men that were brought up with him spake unto him, saying, Thus shalt thou answer the people that spake unto thee, saying, Thy fa-*

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

*ther made our yoke **heavy**, but make thou it somewhat **lighter** for us; thus shalt thou say unto them, My little finger shall be thicker than my father's loins. (2 Chr 10:10). The LORD of hosts hath purposed it, to stain the pride of all glory, and to bring into **contempt** all the **honourable** of the earth (Isa 23:9). Wherefore the LORD God of Israel saith, I said indeed that thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me for ever: but now the LORD saith, Be it far from me; for them that honour me I will **honour**, and they that despise me shall be **lightly esteemed** (1 Sa 2:30).*

Honour is not unquestioned obedience !

Unquestioned obedience belongs to God and Him alone! Once we marry or leave home, we leave parents and each of us are accountable to God, individually. *So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God (Rom 14:12). Now, lo, if he beget a son, that seeth all his father's sins which he hath done, and considereth, and doeth not such like, ... walked in my statutes; he shall not die for the iniquity of his father, he shall surely live (Ezk. 18:14-17).* There will be times when we cannot obey our parents' wishes because, unknown to them, it would cause us to disobey the Word of God. Notice, we are told of church leaders: *Obey them that have the rule over you (Heb 13:17)* and of government leaders: *Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme (1 Pe 2:13)* But likewise, when their orders conflict with God's Word, we must follow God's Word instead: *Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29).* However, if we

can obey both our parents and God, that is what we should seek to do. When we speak to or about God-given authorities in our life, we must show respect in our choice of words and tone of voice.

If we leave their church

We never have the right to disregard our parents feelings or be ungrateful for their efforts to help us. We should always try to consider what they ask of us. When we disagree with them and neither of us can change, it is important not to strive or argue about it. After having explained the reasons and need, let it rest. Learn the art of being silent and let them speak without feeling the need to re-ville and cancel out what they say:

And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient (2 Tim 2:24). Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath (James 1:19). But don't let your silence come across as ignoring them nor their concerns. Reassure them you have and will consider what they are painfully struggling with, for your sakes.

This is particularly true when we decide to leave the church we grew up in, for there is usually no chance of coming to agreement in these cases. They can not understand why anyone would leave and we can not understand why anyone would stay. These loving gestures and attitudes will show the light of Christ to them in a real way which they will notice and cannot deny.

Visit them often

Visits usually are difficult after such a separation, but endure the hardship if you believe you are the one strong in the faith: *We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmi-*

ties of the weak, and not to please ourselves. (Rom 15:1) God instructs us as to the importance of contact with our relations: *Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?* (Isa. 58:7) Most of all, consider how you would feel if one day, your grown children decided to forsake you because they had more truth and light than you did: *Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.* (Matt 7:12). Also important is the example you are setting in your children's sight, which they will follow, as to how to treat parents when they see things differently.

Finally, *Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.* (Col 2:8). Don't fall for clever, practiced preachers that say you have no obligation to your parents because they are "so lost". Such advice and teaching is of the same spirit as those Church Rules that Jesus opposed: *And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may Keep your own tradition. For Moses said, Honour thy father and thy mother; and, Whoso curseth father or mother, let him die the death: But ye say, If a man shall say to his father or mother, It is Corban, that is to say, a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; he shall be free. And ye suffer him no more to do ought for his father or his mother; Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye. And when he had called all the people*

unto him, he said unto them, Harken unto me every one of you, and understand: (Mark. 7:9-14) Yes, let us hearken unto Jesus, and understand. We are not "free" to do such things. As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God. (1 Pet 2:16). Read the example of the Rechabites, who God commended for following their parents' (not unscriptural) instructions: Jer. 35, especially verses :6-10, 16, 18.

Bro. David Cohen
P.O. Box 217
Wellborn, Fl. 32094

Fryer Oil Adventures

By Melvin Martin

I want to tell you about our fryer oil processing and using adventures we've had in the last year.

The process I used last winter to filter my used vegetable oil was I'd heat the oil up to over 160 degrees F and then wrap the tank in plastic to keep it warm as long as possible and then after about two days it would be around 100 degrees F and I'd filter it with a 5 micron filter bag. It worked nice and the engines liked the oil.

Then this spring we moved the oil equipment to Luray's place on the side of a hill so we could use gravity to move the oil instead of a pump. It was a good setup. But, this summer we started to have more problems with our injector pumps than before.

Because of the new setup we started to drain the slop off the bottom of the heater tank and then also drain the good oil off the bottom too. It simply doesn't work to drain the slop off the bottom of a tank like we have and not get it mixed with the good oil. Therefore I think we got a lot more dirt in with the good oil then we did with the old system.

Also we lost one of our restaurants that make the best oil, therefore our oil was thicker than it was before, which makes it a lot harder to get the dirt out.

Also I think we were having a problem with bacteria in our oil which makes for abrasive dirt in the oil even if you had the oil sparkling clean to start with.

Whatever all happened, this fall we started to have injector pumps wearing out. First we'd notice the engine wouldn't have power on diesel when they were hot, then gradually they'd get worse and worse until they wouldn't even start (or run) on diesel. Being the vegetable oil has a thicker viscosity than diesel; you wouldn't even notice anything was wrong when it was run-

ning on the vegetable oil until they were really bad.

We also had a serious problem with bacteria in our diesel fuel. We were hardly using any diesel, so the diesel had lots of time to get old in the fuel tanks. Bacteria do grow in the lines after the diesel fuel filter. The bacteria dirt will get into the injector pump and the dirt can seize it up and break the drive shaft off or wear the pump out.

I know the bacteria in the diesel fuel was one of our major problems that were causing injector pumps to fail. It's even possible that the diesel was all of our problems. I don't know for sure at this time, but until I know, I'm going to be extra careful with the quality of my oil. It's even possible that bacteria caused all of our problems with both the vegetable oil and the diesel.

The other thing I'm suspicious that was happening was that the dirt in the oil was that fine that it was going through all my filters and getting to the pumps anyway even through we had all the proper filters installed. We were plugging more pre-filters and more regular fuel filters than we should have been. I have come to the conclusion that I need to have my fuel that clean before I filter it so that I'm not relying on filters to get all the fine dirt out. Also like that I won't be plugging near as many filters.

So I made some major changes to my process to fix all these problems we were having.

I'm letting the dirt have much more time to settle out of the oil.

If the oil is too thick, the dirt will not settle out even if you give it lots of time. Therefore you have to lower the viscosity of the oil by some method. Heat will do the trick. If your oil is thin like it should be, just heating and settling will be enough. But if you have

too much “chicken fat” or hydrogenated oil, it will get too cold (thick) before it has time for the dirt to settle out, (that is with my 280 gallon heating/settling tank).

So I mixed 20% kerosene with my vegetable oil. The kerosene greatly thinned the oil. Of course, I did some tests to see which kerosene is the best and how much to use. I was greatly surprised at the difference in the kerosene from different companies. The kerosene did two things for me.

1. It thinned the vegetable oil enough that it would settle at 50 degrees F. I heated the blend to around 140 F and then it cooled down to around 50 F and then left it set like that for about a week and a half before I filtered it. I used a 1-micron filter bag, I filtered over 1100 gallons with that bag and it still was flowing just like it was new.
2. Being the oil was thinner and it could settle at a lower temperature, the “chicken fat” solidified and went to the bottom with all the dirt. Therefore the oil got even thinner.

The other advantage of the thin oil besides making it easier to get the dirt out, is that it works much better in the engine, especially at lower temperatures. The kerosene adds about 22 cents per gallon to my cost, but it sure is worth it. I may quit using the kerosene for the summer time.

The other major change we made is I'm adding FPPF Kill'em fuel conditioner to my fuel, especially to the diesel. The Kill'em adds about 1 cent per gallon to my cost, which is insignificant. The Kill'em is to kill any bacteria. Sorry to say, but the vegetable oil isn't “organic” after you add Kill'em. In theory, if you get all the water out of the vegetable oil (and diesel for that matter), you shouldn't need to add the Kill'em. But I ruined too many injector pumps and plugged too many filters to

take a chance on it.

Also we're adding FPPF Total Power fuel conditioner to both our vegetable oil and diesel. The Total Power adds about 4 cents per gallon to our costs. I don't know that the vegetable oil needs any fuel conditioner for it is kind of a fuel conditioner of it's own.

So far our engines are happy with the changes we've made. Time will tell though if we got all the bugs out of it or not.

Another thing you should know if you wish to run straight vegetable oil in your diesel is gelled/very thick oil will not go through the injectors as fast as normal. Therefore the injection pressure will rise much higher than normal and can cause the injector pump to seize. I think this is only a problem soon after startup. I think this is only a problem with rotary style injector pumps. We learned this lesson the hard way last winter. I try to make a habit of being easy on cold diesels that are on vegetable oil.



Proverbs 3:9 & 18:12

Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:

Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honour is humility.

The Children's Challenge

To Charity and Cheerfulness

Steam & Passion

By Dylan Nelson (10) & Peter Sexton (12)

Steam is a gaseous form of water. Steam is an important working substance in heating and power plants. Water turns into steam when it is heated to the boiling point. When water turns into steam, it expands 1,700 times its original size. It is evident that steam can do work when the lid on a teakettle or cooking pan can be lifted up by the steam pressure below. When you are cooking with a pressure cooker, and you touch that thing on top, the

steam comes out and you get burned.

Sometimes we call passion steam. Passion is like steam in a pot with a lid on it. If someone would make you angry, we might release some steam. It will not only hurt them but we feel bad after. My steam is like my energy. So if I let my steam off I lose some of my energy. If you use your energy correctly you can use it to honour God.

The Empty Steam Engine

Sitting alone upon the high plain,
Quiet and still, its being in vain.
Oh shall it ever come back to life,
And shout forth its song, upon its old life?
All of these years, silent and cold,
Its heart still unknown, its story untold.
For what was this made, what use can it be,
Here doing nothing of service, you see?
Then cometh one who pitied the sight,
Of such a creation, who lost all its might.
He gently began to fill up its heart,
With life giving water, so made he a start.
And when it was full, he said with a smile,
"It's time for the fire to heat thee awhile",
And so he lit a great fire within,
And slowly to life, this one did begin.
It creaked and it groaned, it whistled and hissed,
Oh how it loved the life it had missed,
Nearly forgotten, the feeling, the strain,
The ere long lost joy, it felt once again.
Its heart all aglow, its bowels all full,
The throttle now open, it began then to pull
And do that for which, it was, clearly made,
So with all its might, it pulled up that grade,
Now singing the song of fullness within,
Its now only joy, its service to Him.



Editor's Desk

(Continued from page 3)

tures are able to make you wise unto salvation through faith in Jesus. (2 Tim. 3:15). But this sounds to me like something much more than the Bible. This sounds to me like having the mind of Christ. (1 Cor. 2:16) This reminds me of Christ's promise that living water would flow out of us. (John 7:37-39; Rev. 21:6)

Going on with Heb. 8, verse 11: In this new covenant we will not teach our neighbor and our brother to know the Lord, for we will all know him already. I think this is talking more about the same thing as we have in verse 10. Instead of making laws, instead of forcing others to abide by the law, as they did in the old covenant, and as many so-called Christians do today, we need to preach the good news of salvation and life through faith in Jesus Christ our Lord and encourage each other to trust in the Lord and to live the lives He has called us to.

Verse 12: God will be merciful to our unrighteousness, and he won't remember our sins and iniquities any more. I guess that means God won't get angry at us like he did with the children of Israel. In the new covenant our righteousness is our faith in God, (Romans 4). Does that mean that the only reason anyone doesn't make it to heaven is because of unbelief? I guess it does.

So does it matter what we do? If God forgives us of our sins and doesn't remember them under this new covenant, why would it matter if we sinned? I think of Heb. 4:11. We must labor to enter God's rest or we will fall in the same way the children of Israel did by unbelief. I also think of James 2. We need to show our faith by our works. I think of Philippians 2:12. We must work out our own salvation with fear and trembling. I think of Romans 6:1-2. Shall we sin that the grace of God abounds? God forbid. So it does matter what we do.

Just because Jesus died for our sins and we are under the new covenant doesn't guarantee that we will make it to heaven. There are many who still don't make it to heaven, (Matt. 7:13-14; 27:25; Acts 5:1-11). It's only by faith in God that we can be saved.

It's important that we remember that the big difference between the new covenant and the old is that in the new we have the Spirit living in us. It's only by the Holy Spirit living in our lives that we are able to live above sin. We must remember that the Spirit is what bears fruit in our lives, (Galatians 5:16-18, 22-26; Philippians 2:13). Of our own strength, without the Spirit, we will be living in the works of the flesh and the law, (Galatians 5:18-21).

Let us be the people of God and not provoke God to anger by our unbelief but rather walk in the Spirit. Let our lives bring glory and honor to our maker.

Last September I went to a Bill Gothard Basic Seminar. I wrote a 21-page letter in response to it. If you want a copy of it, I'd be glad to send you a copy.



From our Readers:



Dear Martin Family,

Greetings from Saskatchewan! I hope this letter finds you all rejoicing in the Lord's goodness. Congratulations on the new grandchild! And a (late) "happy birthday" to Luke & Dawn's little Micah. He's older than our Ruth. She turned a year on September 19th. It's hard to believe that she's so old already! :-)) They grow so fast... Babies are so precious. I am thankful for each of my siblings!

Hannah received The Boy's Bugle the other day and she (as always) kindly let us read it. I enjoyed it all, but Larisa's story about her experience with the bull made my sisters and me all shiver. We've had to deal with cows charging right after they calve (mama cows can be crazy right after the birth : -)) and I can tell you it's scary enough having a mama cow breathing down your neck. I can't imagine a bull...! We are thankful that God gave Larisa the strength to fight the bull like she did.

I had a recent experience that made me realize how precious life is. We were picking rocks and it looked like my brother was going to be run over by a big loader. I can't tell you how frightening it is to think someone you love is going to die before your eyes. Anyway, I jumped to try to save him, if I could, and landed wrong. I heard a 'pop' from my left knee and landed on my face. It was pretty awful because I was incapable of moving and I just knew my brother had been run over. When my sister Lydia turned me over, I was able to see that he was perfectly fine -- dusty and scared, but all right! I was so relieved. He had managed to crawl away as quick as he could from the loader. You know, we try to work as cautiously as we can, but farm accidents happen. I am thankful that God is watching over us.

I am still on crutches, but I am improving and am not in near so much pain as I was before. The doctor thinks I cut the cartilage in my knee, so now I must just exercise it and wait patiently for it to get better.



Left: Lydia (14) with Sarah and Zayn. Right: Jesse (12) with River and Foxy.

This whole incident has been full of learning for me. People have been so wonderful -- from the hospital staff to our neighbors. Now, I realize I've been selfish. Have I cared so much about other people when they were hurting and laid up? Not so much as they care about me, I'm ashamed to say. And most of these people aren't Christians. Someone told me that I didn't deserve to suffer. Well, I do deserve to suffer, but I know that Jesus took my suffering on Himself on the Cross.

I don't know why God allowed me to get hurt, but I do know that things turned out very, very well compared to what I thought they were going to turn out like. Better to be on crutches for a few weeks than to be attending my brother's funeral.

I am so blessed!

I find what Job said in chapter 23 to be comforting and very true: "But he knoweth the way I take:..." God does know the way I take. He has it all in control. He has proven Himself again and again in my life. Why be worried about the future? About an hour after it happened, I was laying on our couch and I remember thinking, "Well, I don't know why it happened, but I will try to learn all I can from this." I have been trying to keep that mind set throughout this whole thing. And I hope I can say as Job did, "...when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold."

Thank you for printing Larisa's story, and I pray that God will continue to show Himself to you all in very real ways.

We liked the cover picture... horses are big around here. :-) Between my siblings and my parents, there are now 13 horses owned by the Holters (who live in Saskatchewan, anyway!). The girls have been able to train and sell horses so they decided that it was ok to dive deep and buy 8 more. They bought them all privately, and got them for good prices., so that's nice. We got Mom a foal for her birthday and she was overwhelmed at first, but now she's having lots of fun working with it. There's nothing so cute as a weanling! :-) We have mainly quarter horses, but Lydia has a quarter horse/ Arabian cross named Zayn. He's quite a horse. He loves to work cattle and the first time Lydia found that out, she nearly landed on the ground. He's fast. Now, she loves working cattle as much as he does, and since she's prepared for him, she doesn't have accidents (at least not very many). I'm content just to watch and take photos of him. He's pretty, too. :-)

Our prayers are extended to the family of Leonard Kropf. How comforting to have the assurance that a believer goes to be with our heavenly Father., but one also misses the person very much. Hannah read "A Lesson On Patience" out loud to us and we all had a good laugh. How such incidents can be pleasant (and even funny) when a good attitude is kept. God is glorified and a person can learn without guilt involved.

Thank you for publishing the newsletter. I know it's a lot of work, but if you can just bless one household... or one person, it's worth it.

Keep smiling for Jesus!

Looking up,
Naomi Holter

Dear Naomi,

To work together as a community in an efficient manner, we need to obey these rules.

MORAL FOUNDATIONS

BEGIN AT HOME

“Thou shalt not steal” (Exodus 20:15)

Spoken by God himself some four thousand years ago, the Ten Commandments were a solid foundation for building a home. The eighth commandment states firmly, forcefully and finally, “Thou shalt not steal”. These words should be carried in the heart of every adult and diligently taught to every child. (Deuteronomy 6:7-8).

Although these next words are about two thousand years old, the truth they contain is also very relevant for us today. And they are especially applicable to parents. “Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself”? “Thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal”? A look at the following questions will help us determine how carefully we really obey this commandment. It stands guardian over the things God has entrusted to men.

1. What would my family expect me to do if they learned that I had received five cents too much change with our last store purchase? One man reportedly walked 3 miles to return 6 cents of wrongly calculated change. It earned the name, “honest Abe.” What name have I earned by my past actions?
2. Am I known to be prompt in returning borrowed items? Sadly, it is reported that twenty-five million books are not returned to our nation’s libraries every year. Do I have any books which do not belong to me?
3. An item may not be new when it is borrowed, but to return that item broken is to rob the owner of its value! Do I make proper compensation?
4. Have I given in to the temptation to misrepresent things when offering them for sale? Do I drive hard bargains when making purchases? “It is naught, it is naught, saith the buyer, but when he has gone his way, then he boasted.” (Prov. 20:14)
5. If I find something of which has value which has been lost by another, do I put forth honest effort to find the rightful owner? Or do I childishly say, “Finders keepers”?
6. Are there any “souvenirs” in my house which I have collected in my travels? Things like hotel towels or restaurant spoons. Such remembrances may be remembered too well by your children!
7. Do I steal from my employer? Is he my “five and ten cent store”? Pilfering is another word for stealing, not a synonym for “fringe benefits”. What about his time? Does my lunch half-hour have more than thirty minutes or does my coffee break run over the allotted time?
8. Can I sign my name on the tax return, pledging my honesty and resting assured that the all-knowing God knows of no discrepancies?
9. Am I prompt and punctual keeping schedules? Does it matter if others often have to wait for me? Negligence in these matters is a form of stealing time from others.
10. Do I faithfully return to God a fair portion of all His blessings to me? Remember the question the prophet Malachi asked the people of his day, “Will a man rob God”? They had robbed Him by failing to give their tithes and offerings.

The way I answer these questions

Our Ice House

By Nathaniel Martin

Last winter we converted a storage room into an icehouse. It is located near the kitchen. Because it is near the kitchen, we can put the food we wish to keep cool right on the ice. Therefore we don't need to move the ice from the icehouse in the summer to put it in an icebox. And we did not need to put sawdust in between the blocks to keep them from freezing together because we did not need to move the ice.

The storage room had a partial cellar under it. We cut part of the floor out, and we built a room there reaching from the cellar floor up to the ceiling of the storage room. We have nine inches of Styrofoam around it with cellulose above the ceiling. We put plastic on the ceiling and walls to stop airflow. We did not put plastic on the floor so that water could run down through the sheets of foam to a drainage pipe. The room measures about 5' by 10'. There is a door entering from the upper floor with a stair down to the bottom.

We filled the room with ice, packing it around the steps. We used smashed ice and snow to fill in any spots that were too small to fit a block.

We cut the ice from our pond. We used a chain saw with an old bar and chain. We ground the rakers off. There

is no need for bar oil. Don't use bar oil; it will pollute the pond. After having a hole started in the ice, we cut part way through the ice with the chainsaw (cutting with the bar in the water takes a lot of power). Then we split the blocks off with an ax. Using ice tongs, we pulled the blocks out of the water. We pulled them to shore and stood them on edge. The next day we filled the icehouse.

We set the food on the ice. We had ice left until the beginning of October.

We are planning to make a box off the side of the icehouse down in the cellar part so that the cool air and water can drain into it. We plan to set our food in there. The ice melted unevenly this summer therefore the containers did not set on it very well. And hopefully by not opening the walk-in door we can avoid losing cool air. Also the food should be cooler because of it being below the ice rather than being on top of it, since cold sinks.



will have a definite bearing on whether I will be able to teach my children the eight commandments, with their true meaning. As a parent, our conduct sets the tone for the family. Our values and honesty determine whether moral integrity begins in the home. Just one more question. If moral values do not begin at home, where do I expect them to begin? You can find the answer in the continued studies of scripture, with your children's help too.

Submitted by: Margaret Gabor
Bright, Ontario

My Thoughts on Honour

By David Maslin

Hello All,

Please take a moment and ask yourself what you do about and what you think about, HONOUR. The verses Ephesians 6:1-4, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right." "HONOUR thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth." "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Colossians 3:20-21, "Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged." Some of my thoughts on honour is that HONOUR & OBEY go hand in hand. Ephesians 6:1,2,3, the Lord starts out with OBEY, then HONOUR, then the reward.

Fathers are spoken to in Ephesians 6:4. Fathers are you guilty of provoking your children to anger? It seems to me that some parents use verses like Colossians 3:20, & Ephesians 6:1,2, to control their children, to get them to do THEIR will and not always God's will. God is not a DICTATOR; God is LOVE, JOY, and PEACE! Do you parents dislike the way your children honour you? Do you honour God like Matthew 15:8 "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, & honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me." And in verse 9, "But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." Are you teaching and living God's word? Do you honour like 1 Peter 2:17, "HONOUR all men. Love the Brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the King." I believe if we honour the way that we should honour, our children as well as others will honour us more like they should (what you sow ye shall reap). Remember not to desire honour for

yourself, John 8:54, "JESUS answered, if I honour myself, my honour is nothing: it is my Father that honoureth me; of whom ye say, that He is your God." God honoureth His Son; do you honour yours? Honour is for ALL to do, not just for the children to do. Exodus 20:12 says, "HONOUR thy Father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." That "THY," means you.

Children you must OBEY your parents in the LORD (In All Things, Col. 3:20), whether you think they are right or not. And be sure to honour them. In John 2:1-12, you will see that Jesus HONOURED his mother's request, and He was about 30 years old. So I believe that no matter what your age is, God will honour and bless you for doing what He told you to do.

Parents please remember to do all things in Love, especially when disciplining your children, and to raise your children up in the way they should go (Proverbs 22:6). Not our way, but God's Way! If you want to train your children up in the way they should go, read God's word and live it. Proverbs 3:5,6 says, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine OWN understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall DIRECT THY PATHS." Remember to trust the Lord Jesus with your children, He takes care of you, and He will take care of them. Jesus lets you make decisions, so I encourage you to let your children, when they are mature (of age), make some decisions on their own too, which will build trust. Then you can help guide them in their decisions (if needed), so that when they are on their own, they will know better how to think on their own.

Please remember that these are my thoughts. STUDY THE WORD OF GOD. JESUS IS MY LORD AND

Honor

By Luke Rosenbarker

God created this world that we live in. All we can do is give such honor to God, as to care for it as if it were a perishable gift. This land, so vast was once looked upon as great beauty. It was created for man, with delight. People knew that only God could create such beauty. So why do we tend now to pass it by, with no time to spare to even appreciate it. This land that was so beautiful was made for all mankind. Those who misuse it, do it to their own destruction. God made the world, the trees, waters, plants, and animals all for the sake of man. He made it as a useful tool for serving God and man. Man may care for it and it may care for man. You may drink of its streams of living water and eat of the fruit you can gather from it. We are its manager and the land is our employee. If we give good direction, teaching and training to our employee, they will surely have success but without it they may well fail. This land needs the help of every man, woman, and child.

STOP and Look around you! See what God is seeing all over this world. I am not trying to say I am better than you. We all have our own responsibility to God. Take time for your self to see and hear what is going on around you. Think about what you know God to be showing to you, and **DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!**

I see so many things I am do-

ing wrong in this world I so love. I work ten miles from my home. I drive two vehicles in my household. I never really think to just let my neighbors use one. I don't need them both all the time. I have to travel ten miles to buy my food, and five miles to get my gas, and never think much to stop and take one of my neighbors with me as I pass by. Why is it that we have to go so far to work, and so far to get food. Why do I need to go so far to make friends when a good few live just down the road. Why am I so accustomed and dependant upon driving? I can nearly throw a stone and hit my neighbors house, and I only visit him maybe three or four times a year. Why do we not share crop our gardens? Why are we separately raising two cows when we could be sharing in that too?

As I look around me I see little time for honoring this world, let alone God who created it. WE ARE FAILING! Why? Because our Creator and Savior is not first in our lives. Take it to Jesus. This world is to be run by the Creator himself. So stop, look, and listen. He is there to be seen and heard by all who take the time.



SAVIOR!!!

A servant of Jesus, A child of the King!

David Maslin

P.S. Please pray for me, that I will be the son, husband, father, and the servant that God wants me to be, and that Jesus will always have His Way with 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.

What Makes a Good Marriage?

September 10, 2006 Luke and I were in Pennsylvania for a 35th wedding anniversary reunion. The 60 couples that got married in 1971 in the Weaverland Mennonite Conference were all invited. There were 47 couples there for dinner from Canada, Pennsylvania, New York, Missouri, and Virginia. On the table was a pen and paper for each couple. We were asked to write on it what makes a good marriage and to put the papers in a box.

I want to share gleanings from the notes pulled from that box. Out of those sixty couples, not one is separated or divorced. So, listen to the voice of success.

- ❖ See that you reverence your husband, knowing that submissive silence can do wonders—not stony silence.
- ❖ Trust is a key factor. Without it, it wouldn't be secure.
- ❖ Serve God with all your hearts, mind, and soul and you will be rewarded above measure.
- ❖ Discussions should be as peers—not as though you're talking to one on a "lower" level.
- ❖ Respect—parents, companions, church leaders, etc.—not because of what they are but who they are. In that way, if mistakes are made, respect will stay in place.
- ❖ Knowing Jesus Christ makes a good marriage. That is of utmost importance. It's a cure to lots of trials and difficulties. Spend time together.
- ❖ Don't try to change your husband. Pray to God what you feel should be changed and let Him work with him. You are to be there to encourage and help him in every way you can.
- ❖ Walk close to the Lord! Love when you don't feel like it!
- ❖ Love and respect – Ephesians 5.
- ❖ God is so good! May we ever be thankful for our Christian heritage. The family that prays together stays together. We found it very helpful to pray together first thing in the morning and last thing in the evening. The family that sings, reads, and prays together are usually stick together families. Understanding each other's needs is very important
- ❖ God designed marriage for companionship—sharing and caring. God created woman from the side of man, not from the head to be over her, not from the foot to be under him, but a rib, close to the heart. Side by side, walking together. God's way is best.
- ❖ If you keep Christ first, the rest falls into place.

- ❖ The oil in a motor is like love in a marriage and if you lack maintenance, it won't last long.
- ❖ Each for the other and both for the Lord.
- ❖ Life is full of joys and sorrows but it is worth it all.
- ❖ Remember how and what attracted you to each other. That should never change...
- ❖ Cherish—a man promised to cherish, not only in the good times but at all times! Love your wife... Love your husband...
- ❖ Always have your wife go through the door first. Hold the door—the small things are important.
- ❖ Love the Lord—seek Him first daily... That's what holds a marriage and family unit together.
- ❖ Communicate at all times—work out differences.

- ❖ Christ
Commitment
Communication

- ❖ Three C's for a good marriage:
 1. Communication
 2. Communication
 3. Communication

- ❖ The best advice for married couples is to give, give, and give again as long as you live.
- ❖ Keep those communication lines open—don't bottle up feelings—talk & talk & talk.
- ❖ God in our lives makes all the difference. Talk things out and listen, listen, listen. Don't go to bed angry. Remember, God is the one that joined you.

In all these tidbits we see two things repeatedly stressed: first Christ and secondly, communication. And rightly so—communication is necessary and we need Christ to accomplish it. Both parts of communication are mentioned: talk and listen.

Once while discussing problems we were having with people and declaring communication as the answer, our daughter Joy disagreed. She said the answer is to have our hearts turned toward one another. After thinking about it, I decided she is right. If communication is inadequate or misunderstood and causes an undesirable reaction, more communication may result in more misunderstanding and more undesirable reaction. If we add give, give, give to talk and listen, especially with the help of Christ, we can talk, talk, talk and listen, listen, listen, listen, listen. Our communication skills will improve and our hearts will knit together. ✕

The war among religions and those who claim to have no religion...

Who Gets The Honor?

War, strife, disagreements—we've seen too much of it everywhere from between countries to between brothers, between religions, within religions, and with those who are against religion.

Those who claim to be free from religion are not deceived into self-punishing pilgrimages and penances, following weird rules and allowing themselves to be controlled by intolerant, narrow-minded bigots and cult leaders.

Instead they make idols of stars and athletes, sometimes getting so possessed over their hero that they fight over gum that he chewed and pay huge sums of money for it. They nearly kill themselves to be noticed and honored, to follow weird styles, or get a rush from pleasure, danger, money, power, or all kinds of drugs, allowing their appetites to control their self. They feel it necessary to keep religion out of public places and classrooms—except for their religious theories.

We are more alike than we want to admit. Actually I think we are more agreed than we realize. Let me set forth some facts that I think all the religious and the so-called non-religious can agree on.

- We didn't make ourselves or give ourselves life.
- No human being can make life or stop death.
- We owe our life to the source of the force that produced life.
- We are alive because others took care of us.
- We stand in awe of the beauty, power, order, and balance of nature. We know it came from a common source. Everything stays in its place and works together as if everything exists to be used or sacrificed for the benefit of something else, as if it is all in tune, focused on a common conductor. What an awesome show of music and dancing has been displayed through the ages!
- But man has struck notes of discord. He has gotten out of step. We, *Homo sapiens*, can choose what to believe, who to follow, and what to do within our boundaries. We frequently upset the balance in nature, and the balance between each other. More than everything else, we are selfish, proud, greedy, and cruel. We don't want to be used and sacrificed.
- We may try to convince ourselves that all is well, but if we stop and reflect, there is a longing, a pricking, a restlessness in us that leaves us searching.
- Love calls us. We deeply desire to love and be loved, to be creative, to have something to do and something to look forward to, to be needed, to see purpose for our existence, to have our wrong choices

forgiven and made right as far as possible, to be at peace with our neighbors, at least be at peace with our self, to be honored, to know the truth of our source, and be in tune.

- We want honor; therefore, we seek an identity.
- We cannot exist alone for long; therefore, we seek fellowship.
- We will give ourselves to something. People and things have a way of captivating and enslaving us. And we ourselves can be our own worst taskmasters.
- To make a name for ourselves and secure fellowship, we get together and try to build a tower of Babel, or something of the sort. But something happens and we can't understand each other and soon we go apart.
- Few have found their heart's desire.
- The Bible claims that we can find our heart's desire only in Jesus Christ.
- Most choose not to believe that.
- The majority of those that say they believe in Christ do not realize how out of step they are. Like the rest of the world, they look at each other and follow each other and receive honor from one another.
- If we would seek to be true to the source of the force that gave us life, we would honor and respect every person and thing for what they are. We would be free—a melody of love echoing in our heart!

These facts are the essence of the Good News that Jesus brought to us through the Bible. You can see that He taught truth. He said it is hard for you to kick against the pricks.

The few that have found their heart's desire in Jesus have given themselves to their Creator. By keeping their eyes on their Conductor, they are learning the music and how to keep in step. For the benefit of all, they give themselves and submit only to who, what, when, where, and how He directs.

Jesus asked, **How can ye believe, who receive honor one from another, and seek not the honor that cometh from God only?** John 5:44 Webster

Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world. James 1:27

In other words, don't look to the idols, or the group, or **all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life...** John 2:16. Keep your eye on the Conductor so you don't miss a beat!

Being in the cosmic symphony is enough of a rush—and you can rest at the same time since all's in control—and what an honor! 🎵🎵🎵



Here in the North Country

Dear Readers,

A blessed new year to all of you.

Its January 1st and 46 F. Our few inches of snow cover is gone again. Luke and Jonathan, our youngest, went to get some more logging done before the woods road thaws. Occasionally this time of the year in these parts, it gets too cold or the snow gets too deep to log. Seldom is it too muddy. Some cold is nice for the road and some snow keeps the logs cleaner. But this unusually mild winter so far is nice in other ways and we have plenty to do besides logging. A friend has been praying for weather that allows them to rebuild where fire claimed their house. The other day the men enjoyed getting together with friends for a work party to help build.

God has been a faithful teacher this past year. I know He will be faithful in the New Year. Are we faithful students? Is our conduct honorable? Have we learned to honor all mankind? Do we dwell on how disgusting other's sins are but excuse our own "mistakes"? The Golden Rule will measure how far our honor reaches. If we are short on honor, we might use an elastic ruler and think that we measure up.

Let us seek the honor that comes from God only. May it carry you through 2007 and beyond, with no excuses and no regrets.

Sincerely,
Luke and Rachel Martin

Timely Tips

- **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.** Isaiah 55:1-2. How many of our activities, knick-knacks, trinkets, and other things that we spend time and money on, just clutter our lives with no benefit to us or anybody else.
- Do right and leave the results with God.
- Recycle unusable clothes. Make washcloths and dishcloths from heavy knitted or crocheted cotton or terry cloth. Make suitable fabrics into other garments, quilts, or

rugs. Alter garments. A dress with a too wide neck can be made to fit a smaller girl by putting elastic around the neck. Sew a piece or ruffle to the bottom of a dress. A short skirt sewn to a suitably matching sleeveless top could make a jumper. Pillowcases can be made from the corners of worn out sheets. There are many possibilities. Use your imagination. I've made underwear from tee shirts. Sometimes I used the bottom hem for casing for elastic for the waist. Reuse buttons, zippers, and elastic.

- Get a horse or bike! Share vehicles or car pool.

Delicious ways to prepare Rutabaga

Peel rutabaga and cut in chunks. Cook in a little water. Mash and add butter and salt and a bit of maple syrup.

Cook rutabaga and winter squash together. Mash and add butter and salt.

No Excuses, No Regrets

My Jesus gave a promise
He says that when in Him
All wisdom and prudence to us He gives
That is why I say, with
No excuses and No regrets, I can live.

No excuses, No regrets;
That is what I want
I know in Jesus that is what I'll get
His arms around me, his hand to guide me
There I have No excuses, No regrets.

Without Jesus I can do
nothing. I am nothing
But with Jesus, my king, I can do anything
I can live with No excuses
And No regrets, that is what I sing.

All things are possible
Someday I'll look back over
my life, a smile on my face I'll get
I'll say that with my Jesus
I have No excuses and No regrets.

Larisa Martin

Written on her 17th birthday, December 9, 2006.

We are all
manufacturers,
making goods,
making trouble,
or making
excuses.

Heart and Home Harmony

156 Newton Rd
Potsdam, N.Y. 13676

Editors: Luke and Rachel Martin
Parishville Christian Church

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Now unto the King eter-
nal, immortal, invisible,
the only wise God, be
honour and glory for ev-
er and ever. Amen.

1 Timothy 1:17