

The Boys' Bugle

Calling all young men to the service of Christ

Vol. 7, Number 4

Winter 2008



Welcome to The Boys' Bugle

Theme this issue: **Anger.** Next Issue: **The Presence of Jesus**

Please send us your contributions sooner rather than later.

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Subscription Information:

Please let us know, at least every 4 years, that you want to continue to receive "The Boys' Bugle." Back issues available. Donations appreciated. Donations include articles, stories, poems, pictures, ideas, letters, and etc. We reserve the right to print anything you send us, unless you specify otherwise. (Our cost per year for printing and postage for both *The Boys' Bugle* and *Heart and Home Harmony* is \$5.20.) Please make checks payable to The Boys' Bugle.

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Notice "TBB" is in Capitals.

The Boys' Bugle & Heart and

Home Harmony are a ministry of the Parishville Christian Church.

The magazine is managed mostly by the Martin family: Luke and Rachel, and Timothy (32), Joy (27), Melvin (25), Luray (23), Nathaniel (20), Larisa (18), plus 4 married children and grandchildren.

The editors are: Luke, Rachel, and Melvin. Most of the time we publish 4 issues a year.

We live in the country and manage a number of projects such as: organic produce, honey, maple syrup, orchard,

sawmill, blacksmithing, sheep, dogs, cows, chickens, earth-moving, fryer-oil for diesel fuel, carpentry, printing, always something to keep us busy! Our children were all homeschooled.

TBB was started in 2001 to help fill the need for Christian boys magazines
Any comments, suggestions, or ideas you may have are greatly appreciated.

If you are ever in the area, we would be delighted for you to stop in for a visit or come to our church services.

On the Cover:

A view of Luray's greenhouses from the windmill platform. The platform is about 50 ft. up in the crown of a maple. The windmill is another 10-15 ft. higher on a pole. You can see around in all directions from up there. Daniel's produce fields are in the background of the top picture. In the bottom picture you can half see the 'furnace room' that connects and heats all five hoop houses. The whole greenhouse is off level by about 5 ft so there are no fans to move the hot air around. There are a few inches of snow on the ground.

Slow to Anger!

By Daniel Martin

You know this, my dearly-loved brethren. But let every one be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to be angry. For a man's anger does not lead to action which God regards as righteous. James 1:19, 20

When you react in anger to a situation, slow down to ask and answer a few questions before you open your mouth or act!

*What are you angry about?

*Who are you angry with?

*Is this response reasonable?

*Will it be effective? Take a

moment to reflect on your goals for the words and actions you are considering. Is there any reasonable expectation for the planned actions or words to meet these goals?

*If this is about someone you love, does love show in the words?

*If this is about someone you hate, do you want to nourish the hatred in this way?

*Does this show kindness and respect? Actions and words that fail to show kindness can backfire sometimes. Do you want to deal with the follow-up problems?

*Are you sure that he meant what you think he said? Words are to communicate. In some ways it matters more as to what was meant, rather than what was said. Usually the speaker should be considered the final authority as to what was meant.

*Is this a response that will make God smile, and delight your insides?

*Is this whole matter any of your business? Being a busy body has gotten lots of people into lots of trouble.

*Is this situation or issue worth

enough to give it energy? Chose your battles wisely; we all have only a limited measure of time and stress tolerance.

If after due fact gathering and reflection; you are confident that you have come to mature judgment ; GO, ACT, WORK, do something about the business God has sent your way!

Being too quick to judge, and losing your temper, are two things that usually travel together.

We quickly say this or that is good or bad. How is it that you are so sure so soon?

For with whatever judgment you judge, you shall be judged; and with whatever measure you measure out, it shall be measured to you again. Matthew 7:2

The message in the above verse can be a big curse, or a wonderful comfort. Pray to God that he will give you wisdom to perceive what is going on and that He would help you make mature and accurate judgments that are full of mercy, love and forgiveness. May God bless you.



How you react to anger is a reflection of who you really are. You can tell a lot about yourself by how you act in times of stress. Be honest about who you really are, and relate to yourself accordingly.



Editor's Desk



Dear Readers,

The other day the wind was really blowing. In the morning a friend and I were planning to test my centrifuge but we ended up fastening the end-walls on the greenhouse because no one ever finished fastening them right and the wind worked them loose. In the afternoon I was working with vegetable oil behind Luray's greenhouses. The wind was still really blowing. Once in a while a barrel lid or something dangerous looking would go flying in the wind. I thought to myself, "This world is a dangerous place to be." Suddenly it gave an extra strong gust of wind. Stuff was flying through the air. When the gust was over, I heard a terrific flapping. I knew plastic had come loose on a greenhouse. I shut my oil pump off and ran to see what happened. The plastic on the 1st greenhouse was loose almost the whole length—about 90 ft. I knew I needed help. I kept running on to the phone and called Daniel and Dad and Gerard. Within a few minutes help came. We quickly fastened the plastic down. We were fast enough that we saved the plastic. I was very pleased. When I told Luray about it, and how the wind was so strong that it broke the roll-bar at every joint, he was amazed (Luray was gone south on a trip). A few years back, one windy day the plastic came loose when Luray was working in the greenhouse. We had a terrible time



Last summer I joined the Parishville Fire Department. This winter I resigned because I didn't have enough time for it. It was a good experience.

fastening it because the wind would rip it out of our hands. Until we got it fastened down, the plastic was in bad shape.

Later I was told four tractor-trailers rolled over from the wind that day.

There are times in our lives that the "wind" is stronger than we can handle. Sometimes this world is a

dangerous place to be. If we fail to cry out for help, we will fly apart. Our faith and hope and love in God is our strength. Often God helps us by using other people. It is important that when we need help and there are people to help, that we ask and allow others to help us. Not only is it necessary for us that need the help, but also it is necessary for those helping. It is a blessing to be able to help someone who is in need.

Oh, how glad I am that there are brothers ready to help when I need help. I'm really glad that God

rewards us in due time for our faithfulness to Him and for what we've done.

But... I've seen too often where I (or others) needed help and those in a position to help refused to help or encourage. But rather they rejoiced when they saw "the plastic blow off my greenhouse."

But not near everyone has an evil heart. There are people who are filled with love. This world is a dangerous place—don't hesitate to work together

as a community and have fellowship with others. God says there is hope. I say there is hope, because there really is hope.

We recently discovered why Mom gets tired and short of breath so quickly. Her heart is beating way too slow. The symptoms got worse since Jonny's passing.

When I wrote the last Editor's Desk I still wasn't finished with my centrifuge. I finished it the end of November. I am very, very pleased it worked. It was good for my nerve to have something work. I'm still learning how fast to turn it and how fast to run the oil through it. I designed it to turn at 6,000 RPM, but I only got it up to about 3,000 RPM. I need a bigger power supply. I was amazed how well it worked at even 1800 RPM. I plan to do more testing with it.

Also I mentioned that my back was hurting the last issue. I am very glad it is doing a lot better. It doesn't hurt most of the time. I can do some lifting. But it still hurts some if I work it a long time. I can function now, so I'm happy with it.

Anger— this issue's theme is on anger. The definition of anger is: a strong feeling of displeasure and belligerence aroused by a wrong; wrath. Anger is not wrong. Really anger is only a natural reaction that God put in us. It is fine and good to get angry when someone does wrong. It is a force within us that drives us to do something. There are many examples in the Bible of God or Jesus having wrath or anger; like Mark 3:5. We tend to think of anger as a negative thing. However, I think we should think of it as a good thing. How we react to our anger is what really matters. Do we use our anger to drive us to help those that are afflicted and ill treated, overcome a foe, fix a stubborn machine, or whatever it is we are angry with? Or do we use our anger to destroy when it's not

our place to destroy, do we lose our self-control and ability to reason and think and therefore do irrational and wicked things? Do we use our energies for God's honor and glory, or do we give our energies to the devil? Losing your temper or self-control is wrong.

In my experience, the times when I am tired and things aren't going good is when the temptation to lose my temper is the strongest. It is important that we trust that God has everything in control and all is fine even when we are tired and weak. Trust in God will greatly lessen stress. Besides lessening stress, God is our strength when we are weak.

Some practical things we can do when we are tempted to 'lose it' is to stop and take a minute to rest and think. Most important— tell God about your problems. He can lead you to victory. Regardless what you do, don't run from your problems, for the faster you run the faster they follow.

In His Service,

**Did you know that
God has a shape?
See John 5:37**

Justice Through Anger with Love

By: Cherie Whitten

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. I pray my words may reflect Gods intention and bring clarity to our minds and peace to our souls.

The contemplation of anger is so encompassing. Jesus experienced what is interpreted as anger in Mark 3:5 **when he had looked round about on them with anger,³⁷⁰⁹ being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto the man, "Stretch forth thine hand." And he stretched it out: and his hand was restored whole as the other.** The root Greek word, Strong's #G3709, *orgē* is defined by Thayer's as:

- 1) anger, the natural disposition, temper, character
- 2) movement or agitation of the soul, impulse, desire, any violent emotion, but especially anger
- 3) anger, wrath, indignation
- 4) anger exhibited in punishment, hence used for punishment itself...

I think it is clear that Jesus was not exhibiting temper or punishment as in definitions 1 and 4 but perhaps agitation of the soul or indignation as in definitions 2 and 3. Are we also supposed to experience agitation of the soul at indignities and oppression? Jesus did not allow the agitation of his soul to grow into resentment or violence by inaction. He grieved for those who would oppress him and he healed as his spirit commanded. Jesus demonstrated understanding, compassion, and mercy in so doing. He also demonstrated humaneness, fairness and justice.

I am often unable to act promptly in the face of injustice and injury. I may not be able to act at all. But this may leave me with tension, frustration or an agitated soul. How do I find peace? I take it to Jesus! I ask for understanding tempered with compassion, backed with courage. I ask Jesus to come unto me and guide me. Now I must allow myself to be guided

and I must be sure it doesn't conflict with His written word. If I don't talk and walk by the strength of Jesus I will fail with fear and discouragement manifesting itself in the omission of action or a further injustice on my part.

I may not have healed the man's withered hand out of fear or uncertainty. I may have done nothing. The opposite response would be to loose my temper towards my accusers, and how much worse would this response be than inaction. But Jesus so kindly counseled them in Mark 3:4 **"Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life, or to kill?"** He knew what they were thinking, and spoke to their hearts and they still did not listen. They didn't allow their souls to feel the power of His words.

Psalms 82:3 says **Defend the poor and fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy.** In Matthew 10:34 Jesus says **"Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword."** And in Matthew 5:9 He says, **"Blessed are the peacemakers:¹⁵¹⁸ for they shall be called the children of God."**

Did God put anger in our hearts to agitate our souls at injustice, so as to promote justice in the hopes of a great peace? Peacemaker, Strong's #G1518 means subjectively peaceable and whose root lies in *poieō* Strong's #G4160, which Strong's defines as:

"...a prolonged form of an obsolete primary; to *make* or *do* (in a very wide application, more or less direct): - abide, + agree, appoint, X *avenge*, + band together, be, bear, + *bewray*, bring (forth), cast out, cause, commit, + content, continue, deal, + without any delay, (would) do (-ing), execute, exercise, fulfil, gain, give, have, hold, ..."

This leads me to believe that peacemaking is not passive but active. To make peace I must promote justice. I will

know that injustice is present through the agitation of my soul, anger, not violence but indignation. I then must pray for wisdom, guidance and courage to act as I should. Not to sit silently by, but to be moved by God's spirit towards good works, peacemaking.

Psalms 34:14-15, Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it. The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry, reminds me to actively participate in the process. I must depart, do, seek and pursue. I must exhibit empathy not apathy so as there might be peace and justice for all. I must rebuke the violence and punishment that can wash anger over my soul. If I ignore oppression, injury and hypocrisy I will experience tension, frustration, cowardice and weakness for a time, but that will eventually grow to become grief, wrath, despair, fear, violence and maybe war. Oh I pray to have the knowledge of God's will to understand as Jesus did, to read the hearts of those around me, and to care.

And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make *them* afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken *it*. For all people will walk every one in the name of his god, and we will walk in the name of the LORD our God forever and ever, Micah 4:2-5.

This seems so beautiful to me. There has been peace in the land and I can find peace in my heart. But, my soul still becomes agitated at injustices. And I know of no time that there has been com-

plete peace and therefore complete justice throughout the world. However, Jesus demonstrated the ultimate love and compassion under extreme persecution. This example was carried forth by the early church. They discouraged anger in the form of violence but they were active peacemakers not pacifists. They stood for justice, humaneness and compassion, towards strangers and enemies as well as fellow church members. They laid their lives down for these causes, and followed in Jesus' example. They lived these beliefs to the fullest and denounced hypocrisy. They did not act out their anger through revenge and self-righteousness but with prayer, love and the overcoming of evil with good. The eye for an eye philosophy was gone. Great Christians have made great sacrifices but have gained greater glory. I pray for the strength to escape the chains of fleshful fears, fears that I may lose something I have, or fail to obtain something I think I need, whether it be material in nature or respect of persons. I want to focus on yielding the sword of liberation Jesus brought, a peacemaker. I look forward to the great love when, **Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed *each other*. Truth shall spring out of the earth; and righteousness shall look down from heaven. Psalms 85:10-11**

May your anger stir Love, Justice, and Peace within you...



What do we do with these scriptures?

Here are a few scriptures that shed light on the timing of Bible prophecy.

By Melvin Martin

Revelation 1:1-3, “The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things **which must shortly come to pass**; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John: Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw. Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: **for the time is at hand.**”

Revelation 22:6-7, “And he said unto me, These sayings are **faithful and true**: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants **the things which must shortly be done**. Behold, **I come quickly**: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.”

Revelation 22:10, “And he saith unto me, **Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.**”

Daniel 12:4, “But thou, O Daniel, **shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end**: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.” Why was Daniel told to seal up his book, but John told not to, if both Daniel and John’s prophecies were still thousands of years in the future?!

Hebrews 1:2, “Hath **in these last days** spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;”

Acts 2:14-21, “But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words: For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day. **But THIS is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel**; And it shall **come to pass in the last days**, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit

upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: **And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke: The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood**, before that great and notable day of the Lord come: And it shall come to pass, that **whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.**” Peter says that what happened on Pentecost is the fulfillment of Joel’s prophecy. Shall we believe Peter or shall we say that Peter didn’t know what he was talking about? Notice that the sun shall be darkened and the moon made into blood at the same time that whoever calls on the name of the Lord is saved, (See Romans 10:9-10).

Revelation 22:12, “And, behold, **I come quickly**; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.” Also see Rev. 20:12.

Revelation 22:20, “He which testifieth these things saith, **Surely I come quickly**. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.”

1 Peter 4:7, “**But the end of all things is at hand**: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.”

James 5:8, “Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: **for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh**.” When was this written?!

Matthew 24:32-34, “Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. Verily I say unto you, **This generation shall not pass, till all these things be**

fulfilled.” Who was he speaking to?

Matthew 5:17-18, “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, **Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law,** till all be fulfilled.” If the heaven and earth it’s talking about here is still around, then every jot and tittle of the law still stands? Are we required to keep the Law of Moses down to the smallest detail today?!?

Hebrews 9:26, “For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the **end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.**”

1 John 2:18, “Little children, **it is the last time:** and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, **even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.**”

1 John 4:3, “And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and **even now already is it in the world.**”

Also see Matthew 23:34-39, Mark 13:30, Luke 11:50-51, Rev. 1:20, 17:9-10, 17:18.

Luke 21:20-22, “And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries

enter therinto. For these be the days of vengeance, **that all things which are written may be fulfilled.**”

If the words of Christ and the apostles aren’t true when they prophesied the imminent fulfillment of the scriptures, how could we trust anything else they say? If Christ didn’t mean what he says in Matthew 16:27-28, how can we trust he will fulfill Romans 10:9? If Christ’s words don’t mean what they say when he’s talking about things here on this earth, how can we trust he knows what he’s saying when he promises things in the future (heaven)? How can we know he isn’t just pulling our leg and there really isn’t ever going to be a place like heaven? Christ’s words are true and faithful. What he promises will happen just as he says it will. We have a trustworthy God. There is a place like heaven.



A Young Inventor

I remember when I was a little boy wishing I could be a great scientist and inventor. I wanted to invent some great thing. I remember reading a story about some girls that wanted to invent a substance that they could use on themselves, that would make themselves invisible so they could easily hide. Their endeavors only resulted in removing the paint from a chair. I realized that all inventions have rhyme and reason to why they work. By: MZM

A Perspective on Anger

By Hannah Holter, Melville, SK.

Personally I've always had a bit of a temper...Naomi says it's the Irish and Scotch coming out in me. I like to think that it's the tiny bit of Indian I have in my blood. But really I know that it's simply bad control. I've grown slowly better over the years but I still have lots to work on. It flares up at the most unexpected moments...and usually ends with me getting a 'talk to' by my siblings or parents about how I'll never go far in life if I 'always' blow up at people. The only problem is I know they're right. But this article isn't about me or my problems so we'll get on with it.

Anger has many other names; wrath is one of them. It seems to mostly occur when talking about the Lord, or a king. It often appears as someone warning another not to stir up God's wrath or for that matter his displeasure. But wrath has a slightly different meaning than anger according to Webster's New World Dictionary. Anger is broadly applicable to feeling of resentful or revengeful displeasure. Wrath implies deep indignation expressing itself in a desire to punish or get revenge.

There are several comments made in the Bible about what to do with anger. In James 1:19 & 20 we're told "wherefore my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: for the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God." Colossians 3:8 "But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth." Paul was so glad that the brethren in Colossians had put away those things. Might we also strive to make Christ glad by putting them away? As followers of Christ, we need to be like Him: Psalm 103:8 & 9 "The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. He will not always chide neither will He keep his anger forever."

How many times have you 'kept your anger forever.' Do you still hold a grudge against the person who did you a wrong turn? Perhaps someone abused you or some of your family. Maybe it was an unintentional move on their part, or maybe it was deliberate. Are we to hold our anger toward them forever?

Have you ever thought of provoking your siblings, parents or neighbors? Maybe not intentionally but...the argument is on. Proverbs 15:1, "A soft answer turneth away wrath but grievous words stir up anger." You mentioned something, sometimes just to pick a fight, but other times you hadn't a clue that they were opposed to it. And suddenly you are facing an argument. Can you gently turn away the wrath with a soft word, or will you continue to fight, to feel the anger surge in your soul?

Ephesians 6:4 "And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Colossians 3:21 "Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged." Fathers, do you encourage your children to love the Lord and have a gentle voice or do you try to provoke them to wrath? Don't discourage your children in their walk with God, don't discourage them in their walk of life.

Mothers and sisters, we have a big part in teaching our children, or younger and older siblings about keeping our wrath in check. Remember 'a soft answer' keeps the anger away.

Brothers, remember your role in the family picture. Remember your place in life as a witness, not as someone who shows how tough you are by your strength (although it's not 'bad' to do that) but show how you can stand firm no matter what comes your way. Don't lose your temper, keep the anger under control. Remember...Proverbs 16:32 "He that is slow to anger is better than

the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.” Can you imagine how great you would be if you over came a city, single handed in the days of the Bible? Your valor and bravery would go down through the ages, people would make you a modern day legend. And yet Solomon said that if you could simply keep your spirit in check (not get mad, no fits, no angry words) then you were better than any legendary man who conquered a city alone.

Laurence J. Peter once said “speak when you are angry—and you will make the best speech you’ll ever regret.” Anger often makes us say things that we really shouldn’t, and we usually regret them. Have you ever ‘blown your top’ and then wished you could recall the words you spoke? Sometimes after I snap out of place, I wish that I had a guard in front of my lips that would only let me speak sweet and gentle things and that would shut if the anger boiled up. But there is no physical guard that will automatically close when angry words come, we must learn to close our own lips to the anger, remember to keep our hearts pure and our tongues from speaking evil. There is one thing that will help, it is going and asking the person who you spoke to or were angry about, for forgiveness.

Anger does have a proper place in your life. But it should be a controlled anger, an anger that comes of seeing sin, and yet we must remember to keep our wrathful words to ourselves and softly tell the person why it’s wrong. Don’t explode at them. If you have to, leave the room, leave the area for a time till you can control your anger. I’ve often found it easier to go for a walk then it is to blow up and then having to ask for forgiveness. If you know that that person is going to get a rise out of you then leave... why stay around, why stay there when you know that you will be sorely tempted to let them know just what you think of them? Control your anger then

return, if you’re sure that you can’t control it then find an excuse to step aside until they leave.

And let me tell you it really looks like you’ve gone a bit nuts when you get mad at an animal or a tool or a tree, for they are dumb. And why get mad at them, it’s most likely your own fault that they are doing the thing they do. The tool that you want isn’t back where it should be and you feel rather stupid when you remember that you yourself was the one who didn’t put it back where it belonged.

Lastly, but not least, remember prayer. If you’re struggling with anger, take it to the Lord. Spend time on your knees in prayer. Not only on your knees but on your feet as well. If you have to leave the room, then find a place where you can pour out your anger to God and ask him to give you love instead. It works, keep praying, you’ll gain the victory.



Be angry, and do not sin. Do not let the sun go down upon your wrath, neither give place to the Devil.

Ephesians 4:26-27

Editor's note: One thing we must remember when comparing our life-style with the average life-style of the whole earth is not all climates have the same needs and not all areas have the same resources. A man on the equator can function just fine with a pair of sandals and a mud house. But a man from the north will freeze solid if he doesn't have a warm house, lots of clothe, and a winter's supply of food. Equality isn't always good or possible.



conductor is well aware that these can be mucky areas to pass through, but he will do his best not to turn this column into a political broadside.

After loosely defining the general length and breadth of our topic, we will then advance into some specifics. We will investigate appropriate technology, simplicity of life-style, economics, as well as maintain a running commentary on life in general. To make sure we do not get lop-sided in our views, we may include some feedback

Sustainable Living

By Mike Atnip Quaker City, Ohio

Welcome aboard, my friends!

If you are like me, you would gladly receive the welcome, but would immediately want to propose a question of no little significance. Pushing aside your natural inhibition to be so forward as to cast doubt on the wisdom of the conductor, you would stammer out, "Uhhh, thanks for the welcome. But sir, just where are we going?"

For those souls who love adventure, the answer is a thriller. To the rest, it reeks of something akin to disaster: We are going to delve into the unknown world of sustainable living.

Going to an "unknown world"?

I, your "conductor", must needs confess that I have yet to explore all the corners of sustainable living. In the columns to come, I intend to survey a few of these "corners".

Just where will that lead us? I say "us" because you are coming along, right?

Starting off, we will look at the "what, when, where, who and how" of the sustainable lifestyle. This investigation will certainly take us into discussions of ethics, politics, and religion. Your

from "passengers". Hopefully, there will be no mutinies!

Soil biology, solar icemakers, community, common-sense health practices, contentment... The possibilities are limitless, and as I mentioned, your conductor is not sure where all we are going! He does intend to stay within the general confines of "sustainable living". (Psst...He does not promise that, though!)

For a bit of a personal introduction to your conductor, he and his little family reside on a small chunk of Ohio real estate—dubbed *Resurrection Acres*—located in the hills of Noble County. Aside from the fact that the residents of *Resurrection Acres* are disciples of the only Man who rose from the dead by His own power, the name aptly describes the place: it is mostly reclaimed strip-mine. His reasons for pursuing a sustainable life-style are therefore personal, religious, and practical.

Ready to go?

All aboard!

Hope to see you next issue, as we begin our journey by converting the term "sustainable" into corncob English!

especially all of the 6,600,000,000 *homo sapiens* that wander upon its superifice.

So, if you are the man or woman who cannot break out of your comfort zone to expand your outlook to some unknown soul in another “world” beside your own, sustainable living will seem like so much gibberish to you. After all, if you are reading this, you probably belong to the world’s upper class—whether you like that status or not. As such, you have a responsibility with a homeless leper in Bangladesh.

I do not have to stretch my imagination too far to envision a response rising up in some that says, “Now that is taking things too far!”

As I said, I intend to park on this thought a bit. First, in today’s article, we will look at the issue from a mere non-religious, humanitarian standpoint. Later, I intend to take a peek into the religious aspects.

Like it or not, the problems on the other side of the planet are not so far removed from us as we would like to dream they are. This is truer today than at any other time in human history. Within seconds, messages can be sent to anywhere in the world. Planes can reach destination points anywhere on the globe within hours. News reports and TV images circulate the earth continually.

As much as we would like to, we cannot hide in some little corner anymore. We may personally think we are tucked safely away from events in other time zones, but we, as US citizens, are a part of a nation that is presently at the center of world attention. People in Bangladesh, and Tibet, and Mongolia, and Bolivia, and Rwanda, know how we live. They see us faring sumptuously every day.

Read carefully the following overview of the distribution of world wealth, remembering that we are being watched.

2% of the world’s population has half of its wealth.

Did you get that? Reread that statement slowly and let it sink in.

Now, can you guess how much money it takes to be in the world’s top 1% of wealthy people?

A mere \$500,000. That is right! If

you have over \$500,000 in assets you are among the top 1% of wealthy people, who control 40% of the wealth in this world!

Okay, so some of us do not fit that category. How about the top 10% of wealthiest people, who control 85% of this world’s riches? Only \$61,000 per adult is needed to be in this category.

I am extremely curious as to what percentage of those who read this article would fit into the above categories. But, I won’t ask. It might trouble our conscience... Think so?

Well, if you found yourself too poor to fit into the top 10%, do not despair. It only takes \$2,200 of assets per adult to hit the top 50%: As we used to say, “chicken feed” money!

And the remaining 50% of the world’s population? Well, they barely, all 3,300,000,000 of them together, have 1% of its wealth.

Why live sustainingly?

I really should not have to expound the point, but I will.

We citizens of the USA are about 5% of the population of the world. Yet we control 34% of its wealth. Compare that to India, with 16% of the world’s population, and about 1% of its wealth.

What has happened, historically, when the wealthy live lavishly, disregarding the poor? Any student of history will tell you that eventually the poor rise up, in disgust and revenge, and unceremoniously do away with their “oppressors”.

Do we, as normal, everyday, run-of-the-mill Americans, oppress lepers in Bangladesh?

I know what most of us here would say: “Of course not! We do not even know who he is!”

Let us ask the same question on the other side. Or should we? His answer might offend us, or cause a twinge in our conscience, or make our face turn red!

“Yes! You Americans, so few in this world, yet you consume almost 1/3 of the world’s oil! You have 3 cars, 1000 square feet of living space per occupant, a boat, vacation property... You capitalistic pig!” And his voice trails off in anger.

You see, having spent almost five years in the “real world”, a so-called

“third-world” country, I have come to understand why anti-Americanism is on the rise around the globe. They see, via television and Internet, how we live here, pampered in our riches, gulping down the world’s resources at a disproportional rate. They say, “It isn’t right!”

Is it right? If the whole world lived like we do, fossil fuels would run out in an amazingly short time. Maybe not in my generation, but very likely in my son’s or grandson’s.

They are angry at us, with a reason. They would like to see us fall off our silk stools and share in their struggles to get enough rice for supper.

Why live sustainably? We live in this world with at least 5,599,999,999 others. When we live feverishly consuming resources as though we and our little clique are the only ones here, we make enemies—hordes of them.

Would a reduction in enemies be worth the effort to live more sustainably? You, and I, have to decide.

To be continued...

Wealth data taken from: The World Distribution of Household Wealth—
www.wider.unu.edu

Sustainability Politics

We were left in the last article pondering the relationship between gas-guzzling SUVs and the current trend towards anti-American sentiments in various regions of the world. Believe it or not, our disproportionate use of resources is a major cause of the mounting animosity towards the USA.

Will you excuse me a minute while I digress into politics?

I am a product of the Cold War. As a youngster, I would read news accounts that pitted “our” arsenal of nuclear weapons against those of the former USSR. These accounts would give horrifying statistics of how many cities each side could melt into oblivion, with accompanying data of the thousands and thousands who would be affected by the accompanying fallout.

This kind of material is not really good stuff to meditate on, but it had its intended effect: I distrusted anything associated with communism. What I could not figure out was the “why” behind the phenomenal expansion of Marxism. Just why would people come to promote what I’ve been propagandized to believe to be an overtly barbaric system?

In the beginning days of the year 2000, I found myself in the heart of Bolivia, South America. There I began to comprehend the “why” of the communism’s growth.

To me, “commies” were ruthless persecutors of religion. They were heartless oppressors of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. They were men without values.

And then I met face to face with the disciples of “Che”.

Ernesto “Che” Guevara is a name unknown to the majority of North Americans. Perhaps part of the reason is because he was a victim of the Cold War political machine—the capitalistic one.

Yes, the capitalists hunted down Che, captured him while he bathed in a Bolivian river, and then executed him, burying his remains—minus his dismembered hands—near the landing strip of a backwoods Bolivian town in 1967.

To the capitalists, he was the friend and collaborator of Fidel Castro; sentence enough to merit immediate death.

To masses of the poor in Latin America, he is, to this day, the man who tried to deliver them from the injustice of economic inequality. He was the man with a message of parity; the man who told them that it was not fair that 10% of the Latin American population controlled 90% of its wealth and 100% of its politics. The upper 10% lived sumptuously, and the other 90% survived from hand to mouth.

Now, take off your \$100 Wolverine boots and strap on a pair of leather and rubber sandals—cut from the discarded tires of the rich man’s Jeep.

(Continued on page 16)

You earn \$3/day, if you can find a job. You started out your married life with \$37 and a hoe and machete. Your wife had two pots and two dresses. Yes, you have gotten ahead: you now have a 320 square foot adobe house in which to raise your six children. They are all clothed, and you were even able to scratch enough together to buy their pencils and folders for this year's school term.

You watch the rich drive by in their air-conditioned Toyotas. The thought of you ever owning your own vehicle is about as remote of an idea as the rich man's owning his own airplane. It does happen to a few, but most likely will not happen to you.

The rich guy pulls the strings, politically. When donations come from other lands to "aid the poor", somehow big chunks of these funds end up in his pockets. He knows how to make things happen; like how to get the deed to thousands of acres of land, on which he forbids you to plant a garden.

"¡Che, no es justo!" (Hey, this is not just!) someone says.

You pause a moment from digging potatoes in the rich man's big field, where he has hired you for the day, and look into the face of none other than ... Che Guevara! (Che got his nick-name from his constant use of the word "che", equivalent to "hey" in English.)

His message of injustice and inequality speaks loud to you. You cannot disagree, because it is truth. To say that it is just and fair for one man to live luxuriously while nine eke out a living for their daily bread, is simply hard for any honest man to say.

And so you, contemplating the message of Che, have just become another convert to communism; one among millions. You may or may not be inclined towards Che's militant attitude. But something deep inside kind of smiles at Che giving the rich guys a punch in the nose...

What does all this have to do with sustainable living?

In a nutshell, either we "privileged ones" begin to scale back our out-of-proportion consumption and hoarding of natural resources, or more and more Che Guevaras will keep arising. They call themselves "revolutionaries"; a more accurate description would probably be "reactionaries". Regardless of the term used, they are angry and dangerous. Che Guevara admitted he would have attacked the USA with the nuclear missiles of the "Cuban Missile Crisis", but Russia, thankfully, had never relinquished control of them to Cuba.

Will we heed the warnings? Or do we think we are incapable of being touched by these reactionaries? Do we trust in an ever-growing need of military might to keep the pumps in the Middle East pushing black gold our way?

What would happen in the USA should the petroleum valves get shut off for several months by these anti-American reactionaries, who have had enough of our gobbling of resources?

All those trucks that used to go rumbling 24/7 are sidelined, no California produce in Ohio, empty shelves at Walmart (not to mention no money to buy anything anyways), job layoffs because of no markets, hordes of hungry city folk desperate for food they cannot obtain...

What would happen?

Maybe we had better begin to practice a little sustainability before we have to learn the hard way!

Fill the Earth

The last article left me as a "doomsday" prophet-of-sorts, stretching our minds to imagine the oil valves being shut off to our country.

No, I was not prophesying, just speculating on what could happen politically and economically if we do not wisen up to the fact that a growing number of people in the world despise us for the way we guzzle resources.

We shall leave politics now, and stop at religion a bit, while I wax preacher. How's that for a change?

I take it for granted that most of the

readers of the column would claim to be Christians. Narrowing that down even further, a majority would probably consider themselves “Conservative Anabaptist” or at least “Biblically oriented” believers.

Does the Bible speak of a sustainable lifestyle?

No, you will not find “sustainable” in the Bible. But you will find the principle. In fact, you cannot get very far into its pages until you bump into a command to “live sustainably”. Check out Genesis 1:28: “And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.”

Basically God told them (Adam and Eve), “Here is the world for you to use.”

But notice that He commanded them to “replenish” it. The term used here simply means to “fill it” with descendents.

Now, one could easily suppose that God gave Adam and Eve the right to just “live it up”; after all, he gave them dominion over the animals, and told them to “subdue” the world he had just made for them.

But let us reason a little bit.

To fill the earth would take quite a number of generations. In fact, the earth still is not full. To all the naysayers preaching over-population, I say take a flight over the Amazon basin: over 2,000,000 square miles of basically empty, but usable, land.

Now if Adam knew he was supposed to fill the earth with his descendents, and that it would take several hundred generations to do that, do you suppose he could honestly ignore stewarding the land for the future generations? Could he wantonly misuse or waste resources since during his lifetime no-one needed them at the moment?

Can we? Can we begin to think that we are exempt from God’s command to “fill the earth” with people? Or, should we think, like many today do, that we can ignore God’s command and live only for the here and now? Dare we think that we

can let the future generations fend for themselves while we live it up?

Much more could be said about Biblical sustainable living. For the moment, we will only touch on what the KJV calls stewardship. In our modern American English, we would probably use the word “caretaker”.

Consider the following, taken from 1 Corinthians 4:2: “Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”

I realize that this verse is primarily concerned with the stewardship of the Gospel. But it certainly applies to natural things as well. Simply said, caretakers are, well, people who “take care”.

Caretakers do not squander the goods of the boss. They do not waste them, disregard them, use them selfishly, nor sit and watch them rot. He will certainly lose his job if he does.

So we have been given this earth to take care of until the next generation comes along. Can we escape the justice of God if we waste its resources, mis-use them, squander them, or use our journey through this life as a joyride?

Can we kill an elephant just for his tusks to make jewelry, letting the rest rot away? Can we dig up coal and leave the land scarred and useless afterward? Can we apply overdoses of chemicals that will damage the soil for years to come, just so we do not have to sweat with a hoe for a few hours?

Good questions to ask ourselves, unless we simply do not care. But caretakers are caretakers, not don’t-care-takers.

Ponder the difference.



Oiling Vehicles with Fryer Oil

(to slow down rust) By MZM

A few years back we got the notion to spray oil on the undersides of our vehicles to slow down the rust. The salt they put on the roads in the wintertime rusts vehicles fast. At first we used old engine oil. It was a terrible nasty mess. We used a regular paint sprayer to spray the oil. Later we started to use vegetable oil. Vegetable oil is a lot better of an idea. It isn't near as nasty to spray on the vehicle, and after a bit of time it will half dry and make a good coating to protect the metal.

Usually I spray the vehicles once a year in the spring or early summer. Before I spray, I hook up the 5 HP irrigation pump to a garden hose nozzle on a hot day. I run the pump at almost full throttle. I thoroughly wash all the salt and dirt off that collected over the winter. Then sometime later on a dry day I will spray the oil. I wear a gas mask so I don't breathe the oil mist, but it's useless to try to wear goggles because the goggles get a coating of oil on it very quickly and you can't see a thing. I adjust the paint sprayer wide open. I make a point of getting oil in all the cracks and holes, and spraying both sides of every piece of metal. After I'm

finished spraying, it's necessary to wash all lights, windows, and license plates because if you don't in a few days or weeks your windows will be very dirty. You want to avoid getting too much vegetable oil on things like emergency brake cables because over time it will gum them up and they won't move smoothly.

It takes about 1-½ gallons of oil to thoroughly oil a full sized rusty vehicle, but if the vehicle doesn't have much rust on it, it may only take a ½ gallon. The rust soaks the oil up.

I think it helps a lot. When we first started we had a suburban that we thought would be rusted out in a year or so. But that suburban drove for quite a few years after that until we parked it.

Needless to say, it is a greasy dirty mess to do mechanic work after spraying a vehicle with oil.



“Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.” Proverbs 29:18

What is Your Vision?

Which way are you going with your life? What is your goal?

Sin, Wrong Way	Right Way	Opposite not always right
Cursing, swearing	Blessing	Silence
Drugs, alcohol, tobacco	Good habits and activities	“
Jealousy	Loving, giving, rejoicing at another's success	“
Bitterness, unforgiveness	Forgiveness, accepting wrongs	“
Laziness	Enthusiastic, stick at it, working spirit	Workaholic
Control freak	Leading in righteousness	Weakness
Selfishness	Loving others as much as yourself	Self-hate, not valuing yourself
Peer pressure, fear of men	Fear of God	Bold defiance of others
Anger, short temper	Holy fierceness, self-control, motivated	Jellyfish, no backbone/ unmotivated, apathy
Gluttony, overeating	Eating all you need, eating consistently	Fasting, not eating at all
Hate	Love	“
Thief, covetousness	Rightly seek what you need, work	Not wanting anything
Style, (vanity, peer pressure, immodesty)	Modesty, Practicality	Be traditional or be contrary
Materialism, riches	Using your stuff for good	Wishing or having nothing
Sexual lust, fornication, adultery	Fruitfulness, self-control	Doing nothing, fruitlessness

The right way isn't always the opposite of the wrong way. Make sure you have your focus on God, not necessarily on the opposite of evil. Use your talents for good, not hiding your talents in the dirt. Be all you can be. Give God the glory for how he made you. Live your life to the fullest. The reason God made you the way he did was for his glory.

Let us cast aside the weight of sin, and run the race of life like we mean to get to heaven. “Wherefore seeing we also are

compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:1-2
By MZM

These are the words of a song that we sing.

His Banner Over Me Is Love

Song of Solomon 2:16 and 4

My beloved is mine and I am his, his banner over me is love. My beloved is mine and I am his, his banner over me is love. My beloved is mine and I am his, his banner over me is love, his banner, over me is love.

He brought me to his banqueting house, his banner over me is love. He brought me to his banqueting house, his banner over me is love. He brought me to his banqueting house, his banner over me is love, his banner, over me is love.

Submitted by: Vernon Brubaker, Holland, Kentucky

What Did You Give Him?

By Gerard Monnat Winthrop, N.Y.

Now that the rush and crush of the so-called Christmas season has come and gone; now that the trees and decorations are down and put away for another year; now that the food is eaten and the money spent; what have you left to show for it all? What have you given Him? What have you given to Him; to Jesus the Christ; to the Saviour of the world; to the Lord Almighty?? No longer the babe laid in a manger; but the One who died for all mankind, rose from the grave, and now sits at the Father's right hand and wants your gift. I urge you to take the time to slow down and reflect on just what you did, if ever, give Him the gift He wants. Notice I said the gift He wants. He doesn't need your gift. He doesn't even demand your gift. He does however truly want your gift. He wants this gift because He loves you. What is this gift I speak of? What does it cost? This gift is you; and it costs everything you have.

Jesus does not want just your silver and gold, He wants more. He does not just want a small token of appreciation. He wants you, all of you. Jesus wants your love; your true love. Have you given Him your love? Have you given Him your life to use for His glory to use you as He sees fit to further His kingdom on Earth? Have you given your all to follow the Christ, the Messiah, to be a true disciple of Him? Having told those around you what gifts you gave to others you love; have you told them what you gave Jesus? There is an old hymn that brings this message:

“What can I give Him, poor as I am;
If I were a shepherd, I would give a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
What can I give to Him, I'll give my heart.”

Have you given Jesus your heart? It is the most precious gift you can give to Him who gave so much for you; His life. If you have not, why not? He's waiting. He loves you so very much. Will you not return His love? It's so easy, yet so hard. So simple, yet so costly. Just tell Jesus you love Him more than anything else in your life. Just give your heart to Christ, and He will come into your heart and fill you with a Godly love the likes of which you have never known. What can you give Him?

GIVE HIM YOUR HEART

WHO ARE GOD'S PEOPLE ?

The Church is Israel now!

Israel (Jews)

Christians (church)

Israelites are the chosen people Deu. 7:7; 10:15; 14:2, Isa. 43:20,21	Christians are the chosen people Col. 3:12, 1 Pet. 2:9; Eph. 1:4
Israel is the House of God Num. 12:7	Christians are the House of God 1Tim.3:15; Heb.3:2,5,6; 10:21; 1Pet.4:17
Israel is beloved of God Exo.15:13; Deut.33:12; Isa.5:1; Jer.11:15	Christians are beloved of God Rom. 9:26; Eph. 1:6; Col. 3:12; 1Joh.3:2
Israelites are the children of God Exo. 4:22; Deu.14:1; Isa. 1:2,4; 63:8; Jer. 31:9; Hos. 11:1	Christians are the children of God Joh.1:12;11:52; Rom.8:14, 16; 2Cor.6:18; Gal. 3:26; 4:5-6, 7; Phil.2:15; 1Joh.3:1
Israelites are the people of God Exo. 6:7; Deu.27:9; 2 Sam. 7:23; Jer. 11:4	Christians are the people of God Rom. 9:25; Eph. 4:12; 5:3; 2 Cor. 6:16; Titus 2:14
Israel, the Flock of God Psa. 77:20; 80:1; 78:52; Jer. 23:1-3; Eze. 34:12, 15, 16, 31; Mic.5:4; Zec. 10:3	Christians are the Flock of God Joh. 10:14, 16; Heb. 13:20; 1 Pet. 2:25; 5:2, 3
Israel, the field of God Jer. 12:10	Christians the field of God. 1Cor. 3:9
Israel is the Kingdom of God Exo. 19:6; 1 Chr. 17:14; 28:5	Christians are the Kingdom of God Rom. 14:17; 1 Cor. 4:20; Col. 1:13; 4:11; Rev. 1:5
Israel, the Priests of God. Exo. 19:6	Christians are the Priests of God 1 Pet. 2:5, 9; Rev. 1:6; 5:10
Israel, the wife (or bride) of God Isa. 54:5, 6; Jer. 2:2; 31:32; Hos. 1:2	Christians are the (bride or) wife of God 2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:31, 32; Rev. 21:9; Matt. 9:15
Israelites are the children of Abraham 2 Chr. 20:7; Psa. 105:6; Isa. 41:8	Christians are the children of Abraham Rom. 4:11, 16; Gal. 3:7, 29; 4:23, 28, 31
New Covenant with Israel Jer. 31:31, 33; Eze. 11:19-20	New covenant is the Christians Luke 22:20; 1 Cor. 11:25; 2 Cor. 3:6; Heb. 8:6, 8, 10
Israel is an olive tree Jer.11:16; Hos.14:6	Christians are an olive tree. Rom. 11:24
Israelites, the circumcised Gen. 17:10; Jdg. 15:18; Rom. 4:9-12	Christians are the circumcised Rom. 2:29; Phil. 3:3; Col. 2:11
Jerusalem is the city and mother of Israel Psa. 149:2; Isa. 12:6; 51:18; Lam.4:2	Jerusalem is the city and mother of Christians Gal. 4:26; Heb. 12:22
Israelites are Jews Jer.34:8,9; Zec.8:22,23	Christians are Jews Rom. 2:28,29; Phil. 3:3
Israel is Israel	Christians = Israel Eph. 2:11-16

Disobedient Israelites are not God's people under the Old Covenant or under the covenant of his blood. Deut.31:16-18; 1Sam.2:28-35; 2Kings17:18-23;

2Chr.25:7; Jer.3:8;12:8;16:5; Hos.9:15; Matt.3:7-10;21:43; John8:39-44; Rom.11:20-21; 1Thes.2:14-16



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.

✧ Learning How to Love ✧

Controlling the Fire...

...in ourselves and our children

By Rachel Martin

A spark—horrendous destruction—or warmth and light to live. A fire can result in either, whether it was a physical fire or our passions that were ignited. What would life be like if it had no spark, no passion? It wouldn't be life. What is life like when passions run rampant, out of control? It is more like hell than life. Usually we can rebuild after a physical fire has destroyed. The effect of passions may be eternal. So how can this fire in our souls stay lit but under control?

According to the dictionary, passion is strong feelings like love, hate, sexual desire, or anger. In the beginning, all was love, for God is love. Then the people He made choose to disobey Him; therefore, injury, injustice, and wrong entered their cozy world. Love hates evil; so God became angry at the evildoers.

God made us in his image; therefore, we also love, hate, and get angry. Evil fuels anger and our uncontrolled anger fuels evil. So the fire rages and we do not have the wisdom, knowledge, and power to control it.

Yes, God is angry. But He has all wisdom, knowledge, and power; therefore, he can and will mete out justice. He also still loves and pities us. He is slow to anger (Psalm 145:8) and He does not keep his anger forever. (Psalm 103:9) He sent His Son to save us from sin. By giving ourselves completely to God's control, we can be set free from being controlled by our fleshly self. Through

the help of the Spirit, we can gain control of our self and leave the vengeance to Him who knows all. (Rom. 12:19)

Therefore, the first and most important step in controlling our passions is to be born of Christ's Spirit. Then we can expect to be chastened that we might yield the peaceable fruit of righteousness. Read Hebrews 12.

Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled; Hebrews 12:15

What can we learn to help keep us from defiling one more person? Where do roots of bitterness come from and how do we get rid of them?

I remember a discussion in my kitchen with several of my children. My young son started crying. I asked him what the matter is. He let me know that I was falsely accusing him. I don't remember what it was about or what was said but I realized then that I was coming down on him too heavy. I apologized and was thankful that he let me know how he felt. I realized that many children, including most of my own, would have been unable to communicate their feelings, probably because of differences in personality and the way they had been handled prior. They would have bottled up the hurt. Their minds would forget it but it would be there, smoldering underneath. Years later it could be the spark of an explosion on an unsuspecting victim, whom he blames for starting the fire.

The slightest display of anger can cause hurt. Anger is a reaction to injury, injustice, and wrong. Therefore, if I am angry at you, you get the message that I feel you were bad. If I just imagined that you were bad, my anger is false accusation. The injustice could anger you...

Often we think we did no wrong; so it angers us when someone is angry at us. Human imaginings fuel a lot of anger. If we had **the wisdom of the just**, (Luke 1:17) we would be slower to anger. ... **whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: Matt 5:22**

Another injustice stems from the mistaken idea that anger in itself is wrong. A look or cry of pain is sometimes mistaken for anger and the person is accused and rebuked or punished for anger. Even babies, who have no way of expressing their pain but to cry or stiffen or thrash, are sometimes punished for being angry.

Since roots of bitterness can start in infancy from child training methods that flame their anger and snuff the flickering of hope and aspiration, I want to share what we learned.

Though we failed plenty of times in our child training, I will say, by the grace of God we did something right. All our 11 children are a crown to us. I don't remember any of them having what I call a temper tantrum, screaming, kicking, throwing themselves on the floor, or the like, for not getting their way. Neither do I remember them ever talking back in disrespect.

The most important training our children should receive is to feel our love. Our example will instill in them more than our words. Needless to say, don't get angry at them without a reason or mistreat them in anger. If you have anger and bitterness, get rid of it by turning to God. He will heal and help you forgive. If it continues to trouble you, ask Christ to help you find the root of it, so that you can turn it over to Him.

Though it was "needless to say," I am sad to say, I still struggled with angry

raised voice and injustices to my children. I'm thankful they are forgiving and for God's grace to them.

I'm also thankful God helped me to see that I had hidden stuff that needed to be uprooted. After I faced some wrongs done to me in my childhood, I felt the pain and anger of it. In my dealings with people in the following months, I felt more anger than ever before. I realized then that I was allowing myself to feel the pain and anger of an injustice instead of feeling shame. I was now able to deal with the anger instead of denying it and stuffing it away.

"And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Ephesians 6:4

Without the nurture and admonition of the Lord, without attention, discipline, and guidance, children grow up insecure and feeling unworthy. Some parents go to the other extreme to teach submission. They are told they must break the child's will. This can result, especially if the parents are insecure, in unwittingly provoking their children to wrath and robbing them of the will and spirit God gave them to live. If we have learned to submit to God's authority, we can teach our children proper submission to authority—without provoking anger.

Things that build the wrong kind of fire in our children's souls are:

- not giving them a chance to express themselves or ask questions
- not allowing them to cry when they are in pain, lonely, or afraid
- blaming them or punishing them for getting angry
- trying to change who and what God made them to be
- any false accusation, disrespect, or belittling
- unreasonable demands or punishment, or punishing when they do not understand why they are being punished

- scolding or punishing for a mistake when the child was trying to do it right.

LISTEN to them and encourage them to express their thoughts and feelings. You don't want them growing up with their anger suppressed, afraid to be real. **Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.** James 1:19-20

Some misguided parents command their children to stop crying soon after they were spanked. When the child does not (probably cannot) stop, they spank, repeat the command, and spank until he does stop. This is just an example of the kind of treatment that well meaning parents can fall into.

Children (and adults) should be allowed to cry when they need to. There may be times when they should firmly be encouraged to cry quieter or to stop crying. Their crying could become manipulation to get their way. We fallible parents are left with the task of discerning what they really need in all kinds of situations.

Our children look to us for many things just as many came to Jesus asking for help. We can learn from His example. Often Jesus' first question to those in need was asking them what they desired. (Mat. 20:32, Mar. 10:51, Luke 18:41) He had compassion on them. In Mark 10:35-45, the request was for something they couldn't and shouldn't have. Jesus asked them some questions and kindly and firmly explained the truth.

Children need to learn to comply with the parents will. Young minds will at times need the "explanation" of a swat or of various other means of chastisement to teach them and free them from guilt feelings. But first teach them the rules. Explain and demonstrate as best as you can for their age. Show them what you expect by the tone or urgency of your voice, the expression on your face, by removing an object or removing them, by

restraining them, and by example.

When children get angry, use it as an opportunity to teach and train them. Do not try to discipline anger out of them that God put there. Try to determine why they are angry. If you are guilty, make it right. If their anger is unjustified or their response wrong or disrespectful, start teaching them how to control their anger. Let them know what cannot be tolerated. When they have reached an age of reasonable comprehension, then punish for a wrong response but not for anger. Eventually you want them to be able to discern what is just, to take responsibility for their actions, to get rid of their anger or channel it into good, to return good for evil, to take an active stand for truth and justice, to look to God, and learn mercy.

The goal is to help them be open and real, satisfied with how God made them, fervent to serve, and in control of their self. It takes wisdom from God and an honest and genuine heart to strike the right balance and know what they need.

Be comforting but do not join them in a "pity party." To be understanding of their feelings will help them to be sensitive to others and the Spirit. To pity them for every little bump will make them selfish and easily offended.

Protect them—but let them fail so they learn how to succeed on their own.

Challenge them—without demanding too much. They may be able to discern and do a lot more than you expect or you could expect and demand a lot more than their age or abilities allow. Give them the right amount of work and play to grow and develop.

Be firm, assertive, and commanding but not overbearing, harsh, or demanding.

Require obedience but don't demand they do it happily. You do not want them to hide their feelings. However, do not let them manipulate you by crying, whining, or pouting. The sooner they learn that life isn't always what they want, the happier they will be. Attitudes and moods are catching; be thankful,

joyful, and peaceful if you want your children to be that way.

Show honest praise and appreciation—but no flattery.

Be consistent—but be flexible if necessary.

RELAX and enjoy your children.

Let me again stress the importance of looking to God for help. Children are so different and many abnormal and perplexing situations can come up. To truly sense what is right, you need an honest and humble heart that is tuned to the particular needs of your child and to the spirit and wisdom of The Just.

Let God control the flame in your heart. He is the One that first lit it and He will help you and your children have a strong, overcoming spirit that is poor enough to possess the Kingdom of heaven. (Matt. 5:3) Then you will care enough to try to correct injury, injustice, and wrong. You will be rich with passion that does not burn but sheds warmth and light to all around. ✠

Psalms 7

Here is a psalm of anger written by a man after God's own heart.

“O LORD my God, in thee do I put my trust: save me from all them that persecute me, and deliver me: Lest he tear my soul like a lion, rending it in pieces, while there is none to deliver. O LORD my God, if I have done this; if there be iniquity in my hands; If I have rewarded evil unto him that was at peace with me; (yea, I have delivered him that without cause is mine enemy:) Let the enemy persecute my soul, and take it; yea, let him tread down my life upon the earth, and lay mine honour in the dust. Selah. Arise, O LORD, in thine anger, lift up thyself because of the rage of mine enemies: and awake for me to the judgment that thou hast commanded. So shall the congregation of the people compass thee about: for their sakes therefore return thou on high. The LORD shall judge the people: judge me, O LORD, according to my righteousness, and

according to mine integrity that is in me. Oh let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end; but establish the just: for the righteous God trieth the hearts and reins. My defence is of God, which saveth the upright in heart. God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day. If he turn not, he will whet his sword; he hath bent his bow, and made it ready. He hath also prepared for him the instruments of death; he ordaineth his arrows against the persecutors. Behold, he travaileth with iniquity, and hath conceived mischief, and brought forth falsehood. He made a pit, and digged it, and is fallen into the ditch which he made. His mischief shall return upon his own head, and his violent dealing shall come down upon his own pate. I will praise the LORD according to his righteousness: and will sing praise to the name of the LORD most high.”

Letter from Joy Martin

Greetings from Kentucky! The sun is shining and the blackbirds are singing...but I do miss the snow from back home. Of course, I miss my family and friends much more, but I am enjoying my time here very much and am very grateful the Lord has brought me here to serve at the Galilean Children's Home for 3 months. I have been working mostly 8 hour shifts in the Angel House helping to take care of 24 children, mostly under a year old, whose mothers are in prison. Right now we have 9 that need to be fed during the night. Someone has to be there 24 hours a day so we have to work night shift sometimes.

I am thoroughly enjoying caring for these little people. I have been frequently reminded that "inasmuch as you have done it unto the least of these you have done it unto me." Once a week some of the babies are taken to visit their moms in prison. It's sad to see these women in prison and separated from their babies, but I'm very glad to be a part of this ministry to them. Lately, I have been given the responsibility of driving one of the vans to prison. I continually pray that God will touch each of these babies, their families, and their future. One baby has gone home since I've been here. It is hard to see them leave our care, but I'm glad they can be where they belong, tho' at times I can't help but be concerned for their future. But, like in any situation, I need to do what God is calling me to and leave the rest in His love and care.

Most of the shifts, I work along with 3 other ladies to help take care of the babies by feeding, burping, changing diapers, bathing, wiping up spit-up, playing with them and whatever else the moment calls for. Sometimes I am on the shift to take care of the 3 toddlers. Other times I do the house keeping which involves, cooking, cleaning, and laundry. I have also worked a few times in the Blessing House where the handicapped "children" live. In spite of or because of their handicaps they have a way of stealing your heart. I especially enjoy the ones who can talk and interact with you. Rosie had us laughing when someone came in and asked where everyone was and she piped up and said, "Up in heaven!"

I am making friends and many memories with the other girls I'm living with at the Mary and Martha House. They are always coming up with some idea to make us laugh, so if laughter is good medicine we ought to be healthy!

The Lord has been very good to me and I thank Him for His loving Hand on me this past year. He is continually proving Himself faithful and I am learning to talk to Him about every thing in my life, big or little and finding peace in surrendering all things to His leading.

I will leave you with this passage of scripture to ponder: Matthew 18:1-14

Because He Lives,
Joy

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Luke Martin 315-265-0026

Daniel Martin 315-265-1246

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” Psalm 133

Various **Proverbs** on anger and wrath.

“The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going. A wise man feareth, and departeth from evil: but the fool rageth, and is confident. He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly: and a man of wicked devices is hated.” Pro 14:15-17

“He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding: but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly.” Pro 14:29

“A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.” Pro 15:1

“The wrath of a king is as messengers of death: but a wise man will pacify it.” Pro 16:14

“He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.” Pro 16:32

“The discretion of a man deferreth his anger; and it is his glory to pass over a transgression.” Pro 19:11

“A man of great wrath shall suffer punishment: for if thou deliver him, yet thou must do it again.” Pro 19:19

“It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman.” Pro 21:19

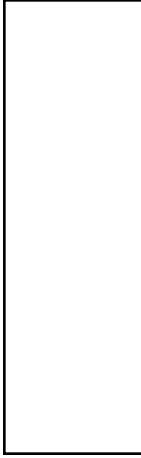
“Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go: Lest thou learn his ways, and get a snare to thy soul.” Pro 22:24-25

“Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth. Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips. A stone is heavy, and the sand weighty; but a fool's wrath is heavier than them both. Wrath is cruel, and anger is outrageous; but who is able to stand before envy? Open rebuke is better than secret love. Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.” Pro 27:1-6

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He hath shewed thee, O
man, what is good; and what
doth the LORD require of
thee, but to do justly, and to
love mercy, and to walk
humbly with thy God?

Micah 6:8