

The Boys' Bugle

Calling all young men to the service of Christ

Vol. 9, Number 1

Spring 2009



Welcome to The Boys' Bugle

This issues theme

“Unity”

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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. Our children are: Daniel & Mendy, Ellen & Mike Atnip, Timothy, Emily & Rob Hall, Dawn & Luke Rosenbarker, Joy (& Charles Thonus, on April 18, Lord willing,) Melvin, Luray and Britany, Nathaniel (21), Larisa (19), Jonathan (in heaven) and 13 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, farm and garden supply store, carpentry, printing, always something to keep us busy! Our children were homeschooled.

TBB was started in 2001 to help fill the need for a Christian boys’ magazine.

Any comments, suggestions, submissions, 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.



Editor's Desk



Dear Readers,

Greetings from the North Country in Jesus name.

It's been 3 months since my accident on December 16, 2008. You all are probably wondering how I am doing by now. I am steadily improving but I still have a long ways to go. Amazingly, you can still plainly see the pink marks where the board made brush burns. Most of the time I can't get up quickly if I've been sitting or laying down. It takes me awhile to stand up straight. I can walk almost normally when I'm "warmed up," but I don't walk fast. My appetite has slacked off a lot. I am up to full

weight. I still avoid lifting more than 1 gallon of water. I mostly sleep on my back, and rest lots. I trust I'll grow strong again and heal to be normal, but it may be a long time.

Sometimes I get a bit discouraged and wonder why it takes so long to heal but then I look back and remember that just a few weeks ago I could only...

I've seen enough of what God has made and what He has done, that I am silenced. I feel like I hardly even have begun to understand God, what he had made or what he has done, and I am so weak. I feel like falling down before God and saying "You're too great for me. I'm so glad you are merciful to me and that you care. I'm very glad to be under your strong wing."

Once upon a time I viewed pain as a bad thing. I tried to manage things to avoid pain as best as I could. Not only was I thinking of myself, but I was as much looking out for others too, for at times I endured pain for the sake of sparing or trying to spare someone else. I don't think that was bad; in fact, I think it was noble.

The Golden Rule is to do to others as you would have them do to you. When God does something to us, we should appreciate it, for He is looking out for our good, for

Theme for next issue: Reconciliation

Definition: to bring into agreement or harmony; to win over to friendliness.

Thoughts to ponder:

What does it take to make reconciliation? Have you seen any reconciliations or know of any stories or teachings on it that you could share with us? We all need encouragement toward reconciliation, to God and one another, to reverse the damage of countless man made divisions.

Let your thoughts and writing be in harmony with God's Word.

On the Cover:

A big crew working together to put the polycarbonate (glazing) on Luray's new solar greenhouse on 9-3-08. Now he has tomatoes growing in there.

God is Love. Sometimes God does or allows things to happen to us that cause us pain, sometimes great pain. We should appreciate it when God treats us so. So back to the Golden Rule. Isn't there a time when to cause or to allow someone else to have pain a good thing to do? But finally, in the end, the goal is for good, for us to rejoice and give God the glory he deserves, functioning as God intended us to function.

In Deuteronomy 8:15-17 it says, "He (God) led you (the Children of Israel) through the great and terrible wilderness, with fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground, where there was no water, who brought you forth water out of the rock of flint, who fed you in the wilderness with manna which your fathers did not know, **so that He might humble you and so that He might prove you, to do you good in your latter end,** and so that you might not say in your heart, My power and the might of my hand has gotten me this wealth." Let's not complain when God humbles us and afflicts us, for he is doing it for our good. Great blessings can come out of a painful experience.

Oh, how mighty and terrible God is. God speaks and the worlds are made. He came to the children of Israel and spoke to them with a great voice, from on top of a mountain. He appeared on the mountain out of the fire, of the cloud, and a thick darkness. The mountain burnt with fire. His voice was so great the children of Israel were afraid they would die. Oh, how mighty and glorious the Lord is. He is so dangerous that He can destroy you in a moment. Run, flee, stay as far from

him as you can. Run faster and faster. But where are you running to? Can you flee from God? No, He is every where. He is so great. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Listen to his voice, and obey, for He cares for you. Tell Him your troubles. God is Love. The only safe place to run is to God.

Oh, how small man is. Try for a moment to stop the wind. Or chase the cloud away. Or control the thunder, lightning, and rain. How about making a simple blade of grass grow, and when you succeeded with that, make a delicate rose with a delightful aroma out of some dirt. How about trying to reverse the course of the moon. Now let's try something real easy. Just guarantee your heart will keep pounding for another day. Oh, how weak man is. But run to God, and you can move mountains.

When we get pain, we tend to complain. It's okay to hurt, but don't complain against God. (Numbers 21:4-5)

If you have pain for long enough, you will get somewhat used to it, even though it still hurts.

While you are in pain, it seems like eternity. But when it's gone, it's only a memory.

Pain is an indication that something is wrong. I don't think that God wants us to be in pain and do nothing about it. Most of the time, it is the best thing to stay clear of dangerous and painful places.

So when pain, temptation, persecution, disappointments, etc, come take a deep breath and relax and trust in the Lord your God, for it'll be fine – someday.

On February 21, 2009 Luray

and Brittany got married. In the morning it snowed a bit but then the rest of the day was very nice. About 300 people came. It was a joyous time. They went to Maine to see the ocean for their honeymoon.

I hope all goes well for you until the next time.

In His Service,

God's Wings

An article in National Geographic several years ago provided a penetrating picture of God's wings...After a forest fire in Yellowstone National Park, forest rangers began their trek up a mountain to assess the inferno's damage. One ranger found a bird literally petrified in ashes, perched statuesquely on the ground at the base of a tree. Somewhat sickened by the eerie sight, he knocked over the bird with a stick. When he struck it, three tiny chicks scurried from under their dead mother's wings. The loving mother, keenly aware of impending disaster, had carried her offspring to the base of the tree and had gathered them under her wings, instinctively knowing that the toxic smoke would rise. She could have flown to safety, but had refused to abandon her babies. When the blaze had arrived and the heat

had scorched her small body, the mother remained steadfast. Because she had been willing to die, those under the cover of her wings would live...

"He will cover you with his feathers, and under His wings you will find refuge..." Psa 91:4

Being loved this much should
Make a difference in your life.
Remember the One who loves
you
And be different because of it.

**Unity is more about
thinking together than
it is thinking alike.**

Christian Unity

Who is my brother in Christ? What is the length, the breadth and the height of Christian unity? These questions would be answered many different ways by many different people. There are those who would narrow it down nearly to only their own denomination. But today it is much more often extended quite far and wide. The two extremes could be called Denominationalism, which projects a very narrow view, and Ecumenism, which ultimately seeks unity with as many as possible.

Strange as it may seem, these two extremes are both the result of the same error. That error is looking to the wrong thing as the basis for unity. Let's look at two important truths about true Christian unity.

1. Christian unity must be based upon the Christian faith as taught in the Bible, therefore, it accepts all who believe and practice the true faith, and it rejects all false doctrine and sinners.

2. Christian unity is not something that must be developed or created; it exists among *all true believers*, and only needs to be recognized.

A. W. Tozer wrote:

I feel that we as evangelicals are making two serious mistakes. One is insisting upon union where it should not be, and another is creating divisions artificially where there is no justification for them.

One blessed fact to be kept ever in mind is the organic unity of all true believers in Christ. However ill taught **God's children may be on this subject** and however widely separated by artificial barriers, they are nonetheless all members of Christ and as surely as one **man's hands and feet and eyes and ears** are one by being members of his body. Unity in Christ is not something to be

achieved; it is something to be recognized. A. W. Tozer, *God Tells the Man Who Cares*, pp.54, 55

May we recognize where this unity begins and ends: with born - again children of God.

Paul wrote: **"So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another."** (Rom. 12:5)

Christian unity recognizes no division by gender, race or nationality. Paul wrote: **"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus."** (Gal. 3:28)

Notice the basis of Christian unity: **"Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."** (Eph. 4:3-6)

But Christian unity cannot include false doctrine or sinners, that would not be unity, but disunity. Because, **"what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?"** (2 Cor. 6:15)

Today, there is a strong ecumenical movement, attempting to unite "Christians" and even those of other religions to an unholy union that can only corrupt - a one world religion. It is made to sound good, with brotherly love and acceptance of all, but it is the opposite of the unity and the faith Christ taught. Christ taught that we will be hated of all nations for His Name's sake - not that we will be in unity with them. He said, **"Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather divi-**

tion:” (Luke 12:51)

Even during the reformation there were those promoting “unity” among those of all religions. The Anabaptist, Dirk Philip wrote in response to such:

“From this it follows that it is nothing but foolishness . . . to profess and advise, that heathen, Turks, Jews and even those who have no historical or Scriptural knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, be acknowledged as brethren if they fear God. Dear reader, how shall a man who does not know God fear Him? Or how shall or can a man fear and confess God the Father who does not believe in Jesus Christ whom the Father gave as a Saviour and Reconciler? (Jn. 1; 1 Jn. 5). Or how can a man be born of God except by faith in Jesus Christ? Or how can a man become our brother and fellow member in Christ Jesus ([1] Jn. 2) who is not born of God? For this birth can not take place in any other way than in the way already mentioned, namely, that to as many as received the Word and Light, Jesus Christ, to them gave He power to become the children of God (Jn. 1:12). And again: “Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ and the Son of God is born of God.” (1 Jn. 5).”
-Dirk Philips, *Refutation of two letters by Sebastian Frank*

To recognize even those of other religions as spiritual brothers makes any evangelism useless. We need to be willing to say with Peter: **“Neither is there salvation in any**

other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12) May we recognize our brothers and sisters in Christ based upon true Christian faith and practice, and not accept a *disunity* of faith.

Reprinted from:
The Way of Truth

The Way of Truth is published free of charge six times a year. His goal is to encourage a love of the truth of God’s Word, and a solid confidence in its literal teachings, such as existed in the early church and Anabaptists. The main subjects covered will be the gospel of salvation and the importance of sound faith. Send your address to:

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"You may tie the tails of a cat and a dog together by a rope and have a union, but you sure don't have unity"

Submitted by Glen Wenger

Good Farming Practices

There is life in the soil. There are bugs and worms (like earthworms), and bacteria and fungus and only God knows what all. Healthy soil will be full of life. There will be a balance of the right amounts of the right kinds of life. If your soil is alive and well, your plants will be too. There are also nutrients and minerals and such in the soil. If there is too much or too little of something, it will mess up the life cycles and balance and your plants won't grow like they should, the weeds may grow and disease and pests will come.

From what I've seen and heard, good farming practices are very important for good soil health. Good farming practices are more important than using the right fertilizers. Good farming practices need to be your main means of maintaining good fertility. The fertilizers you add are only to fine tune your fertility.

One aspect of good farming practices is to use cover-crops and green-manure. Having a cover-crop means to have something growing in your soil most of the time, even if it

is weeds. Common cover-crops are things like rye, buckwheat, oats, clover, vetch, and weeds. Green-manure is to till (or mow) green plant material into the ground. The best time to till it in is when the plants are budding but before they go to seed. At that time there is a lot of nutrition in the plants. If you wait until they go to seed, the nutrition goes into the seeds and it doesn't do near as much good to the soil. And obviously, if you are using weeds as cover-crop and you let them go to seed, you will have a terrible weed problem afterwards. Besides using cover-crops for building soil fertility, it is also good for controlling or suppressing weeds and grass, and for stopping wind and water erosion.

Fertilizers are expensive. You want to use as little as you can and still give your soil what it needs.

Melvin Martin
The fertilizer sales-man

Questions and Answers

Question for next issue:

How can you tell if something is of the Devil or of God?

How can you tell if something is just your own idea or if it's from God?

How can you tell who is a true prophet and who is a false prophet?

Send your answers to:

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156 Newton Rd.
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By Faith

Those of faith have trials in life, but some of no faith pass through their life on earth in happiness and not tried. But even though people of faith be tried and have a hard time in life they may still have a great joy inside and a greater peace about them. So why be of faith? Is it better? Our Lord Jesus died for our sins so we may have eternal life if we have faith in the blood of Jesus. Those in Christ shall be alive. All the people of this earth are changed, in that they give up their life, yes, die of unbelief and sinful things. But if they become dead to sins, they will now live in faith. Relive in the shed blood of Jesus. Those of continued unbelief die a death that is from everlasting to everlasting unless they be pardoned by the Lord.

Luke Rosenbarker

DON'T QUIT

When things go wrong,
as they sometimes will
When the road you are trudging
seem all uphill,
When the funds are low
and the debts are high,
And you want to smile,
but you have to sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit—
REST IF YOU MUST, BUT DON'T YOU QUIT.

Many a person turns about
When they might have won
had they stuck it out.
DON'T GIVE UP THOUGH
the pace seems slow — — —
You may succeed with another blow;
Success is failure turned inside out
So stick to the fight
WHEN YOU'RE HARDEST HIT —
IT'S WHEN THINGS SEEM WORST,
that you MUSTN'T QUIT

—Submitted by Harold Boker

Unity

Unity means to be one, a oneness, a singleness of minds together. Ephesians 4:3 *‘Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace’* and verse 13 of the same chapter, *‘Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.’*

Each person has a different role in the body of Christ. *‘And he gave some apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.’* Ephesians 4:11 & 12. God gives to all His children different talents. For instance, our pastor is called of God to preach to us. When he was growing up he said that he would *never* grow up to be a preacher. But God gave him no rest till he surrendered to the Lord’s will and started preaching. My father is a father. He trains us children, teaching us, showing us the way of the Lord. My father was not called to be anything more than a Godly father raising his children for Christ. This subject follows hard on the heels of the last issue’s ‘Selflessness’. Unity often means that we forfeit our ideas and plans for others to have their way. Unity does not mean everyone agrees with you; in this world *You* should be the last person you think of. Uniting with each other as brothers and sisters in Christ means that each person has a special place to serve. Some are more prominent than oth-

ers, like teachers, pastors, evangelists... Others serve God quietly, keeping the peace in both church and home. Make other’s will your own as long as it lines up with God’s word.

Unity with God means just that... You look, listen to, and obey God with your heart, soul and mind. *‘Teach me thy way, O Lord; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name.’* Psalms 86:11. You unite with God by obeying Him, walking in His footsteps, learning from His word, following His commandments, serving only Him, offering praise to Him alone. Unity with God means the same as unity with your fellow Christian man, you don’t think about yourself.

To unify yourself with someone doesn’t mean you can’t have an opinion, but that you will leave your plan, idea or opinion behind for another’s that is better. When it comes to the Bible though, never compromise. Always line up what other people say with the Word of God. Always line up what you are doing with what God says in the Bible.

It’s like you’re on a battle field. When your commanding officer says, “Go,” you all go. When he says, “Retreat,” you retreat. And you do it together. In a sense, you are on a battle field, a battle for God. And if you aren’t in unity with God, then people will know, and that is not a good witness for Him. You need to be in unity with your fellow Christians (that is, those who want to obey God), not only to help

them, but being in unity with them presents a wall that Satan can not break down. If we all pull our own way, Satan can easily attack us and get us down. When we're together, we can fight back to back, protecting each other from the darts Satan hurls.

Unity means not looking down on other people – you too are only a sinner saved by grace. You may see a new Christian struggling to live the life God commands and you forget that you were once in that place only a few years back. If you start to scold that new believer, you've broken any unity you ever had with him. Don't break the unity, remember where you were, and go to them in love. Show them in God's word how to conquer their trouble. Stand beside them, help them fight Satan. Remind yourself that in doing that, your unity with God strengthens as you help others

serve Him. But be warned; do not let yourself be filled with pride because you have such *'good advice'* for your fellow Christians. God is the only one who should receive any glory for what you do.

Unify yourself with God and when you do, you will more often than not find yourself in unity with your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Hannah Holter
Waldron, SK

Proverbs

6:12-19

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

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



The Only One

By Terri Bale

There is something that God told me a long time ago... or perhaps I should rather say He gave it to me to think about. He said that He is the only ONE. (I had been out for a walk on a beautiful day in Romania and had sat down on a hillside talking with the Lord when He brought this up.)

Feeling this notion out, I came to understand that He is the only unified, harmonious, unbroken thing; and that everything else is broken, out of tune, and missing something, and would be better represented as a fraction than as a whole number. Furthermore, such things ought to be considered as fractions in flux, for everything else is, at all times, either becoming more, or less, in an unbalanced progress; like how we walk, asymmetrically. Where as He is simply and complexly whole. And if He grows (and there is reason to suspect that He does, as growth is part of life) then it is in a balanced, whole fashion.

[It helps to climb a mountain with your Father. He can give you a hand up, or rescue you when you need it. But best of all you can share the experience, and you love one another. Such a Father. Such a Friend. Such a Savior. – Religion is a man made structure, and doctrine a template, but God is a person, and He cares for you.]

We are always looking for God further out and more dimensional. But what if He is further out and further in, and more complexly less dimensional? He has told us in the

scriptures that He is one. The simplest. Yet that wouldn't / needn't (logically) stop Him from being the greatest. Far and away the greatest. There is none like Him. ...Yet He cares for us, -- amazing.

From what we know from the scriptures, God was the first and only thing. Nothing was before Him. So that all the visible, tangible universe is inferior to, younger than, and made by Him. What did He make it all from?

When I asked Him that, He left me to consider it this way: Perhaps He took a whole chunk out of Himself and broke it into useable pieces. [Like how white light can be “broken” into the colors of the spectrum, while the unbroken light that is left stays whole; and how a new human being is made from just such a breaking process—with “extra” materials (like the placenta and the amniotic sack, etc., being created along the way) while the parents’ personhood is not diminished in the least.] So perhaps God took some expendable part of Himself, broke it into useable pieces, and began to make something special out of it—a universe, for example, and creatures, and man.

Maybe, like an artist puts a fractional part of their fractional selves into their fractional art, He has fashioned the whole of everything out of a whole part of Himself (DNA comes to mind also as, again, He stays whole somehow) with the plan of reintegrating the stuff that grows and benefits other growing-benefitting stuff back into or onto

Himself, like an artist enjoys and employs his own creation.

Yet in God's work of creation He gave to us humans the ability to invent, to create, to choose, to have the characteristic of will, as God Himself has. If they choose, in their independent state [yet no one and no thing is all that independent, as we all depend on Him, like a book depends on the table it's lying on, and the table depends on the house it's standing in] ...if they choose to use their abilities and take their substance and align it back again into God, and desire and allow Him to really knit them in right, then they become part of Him again, like the vine and the branch. And a special part of Him at that, and whole and holy by His grace, living and growing in Him.

But, if they choose to close up and keep to themselves (see Matthew chapter 25), then they are not reintegrated into God, and so are lost—being clumped and ever compacting, even as the others ever spread and grow with the vine, Himself.

But note that growing here on earth requires breaking and then building. You and I must “break” wood out of a tree, or clay out of a river bank, etc., and make things: houses to live in, cups to drink from, etc. We break in order to make, and in so doing we enable ourselves and each other to live and to learn from our existence and from our growing. We learn to live in the direction of health and life and benefit; we learn to live in the direction of God, that is, to live or walk along with Him in the same direction—or else we don't learn that, and we don't grow, don't walk, don't live, but become radical,

errant breakers and consumers and destroyers, who are ever further broken by their own breaking, consumed by their own consuming, and destroyed by their own destroying.

You can see that destructive cycle happening all around us, where people take materials out of God's good creation and break them down, recombine the parts and pieces, and devour the conglomerate. The foods we eat have all those unidentifiable ingredients in them because they are a reassemblage of broken bits and pieces to jack up the flavor or color or to increase a product's “shelf life.” (By adding strong chemicals, they diminish a food's life supporting qualities, so bacteria won't spoil it before they've sold it to you.)

And the ideas we are given—broken, most of them. Fiction and news, extracted from life, but not contributing to it ...except to weigh on it. It's not a respectful disassembling and reassembling, like making soup, or getting in the harvest, in honor of God and in order to be a benefit. No, but we break and consume only in order to amass. And the mass of our bulk, either of body, or mind, or materials, weighs upon and crushes the life out of us.

Likewise, using our God given time and energy in order to obtain money in order to buy things—particularly in order to buy more and more and more things, is obviously heading in the wrong direction; neglecting and negating the good work that God intended for us to help with, becoming an enemy of God.(!)

We've gotten mixed up. We are now making points for the other guys side. Striving, pressing to the goal, against our own team, against our own lives. Like how a cancer

will grow and grow, promoting itself, til it takes your breath away.

What a state we are in if that's what we have become to the body of Christ.

For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of man will come in the glory of his Father, with his angels; and then he will reward every man according to his works.

Matthew 16:26-27 Webster

Yet there is hope. Even in that analogy to cancer. For you've probably seen for your self people who, in battling that dread malfunction of cells, take and properly use whatever health and life they have left to reach out and invest deeply into other peoples lives, realizing through loss what is true gain. And, in God, everlasting gain.

It sounds a lot like Ezekiel 33: 14-16. **Again, when I say to the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; if he shall turn from his sin, and do that which is lawful and right; If the wicked shall restore the pledge, give again that which he**

had robbed, walk in the statutes of life, without committing iniquity; he shall surely live, he shall not die. None of his sins that he hath committed shall be mentioned to him: he hath done that which is lawful and right; he shall surely live.

Terri Bale lives in Ironwood, MI with her husband, Timothy and their 9 children.

A part of unity has to do with relaxing and enjoying your fellow man as he is, where he is and turning your focus towards living, loving and listening to our God.

Unity? Unity with what? Unity is good - **IF IT IS GOOD. GOD DIDN'T LIKE THE UNITY AT the tower of Babel .**

—Daniel Martin

Tongues and Feathers

An old Eastern European story tells of a woman who "suffered" from the afflictions of gossip and slander. Many people had been affected adversely by her words over the years. One day the woman came to the realization that she needed to mend her ways and stop her destructive habits. But easier said than done!

Finally she settled on seeing the village rabbi to aid her in getting rid of the habits. The rabbi listened carefully to her story, and then told the woman to bring him one of her geese. Puzzled by his request, she went home and grabbed one of her choice geese and brought it back to the rabbi's house. "Go into the kitchen, kill the goose, and pluck it. Then bring me the feathers," the rabbi told the woman.

She did as she was told, although she didn't understand why. After the task was finished, the rabbi told her to go to each house where due to her gossip and slander she had hurt people, and place a goose feather at each doorstep. The woman went from door to door, and because she had lived a long time, and had gossiped much in that life, she almost emptied her basket full of feathers.

Once finished, she returned to the rabbi's house. He looked at her for a long time, and then slowly said, "now, go back to each house and collect all those goose feathers you just placed and bring them back to me."

The woman looked at him with disbelief. "But Rabbi," she said, "can't you hear how the wind blows through the streets? By now the wind will have carried all those feathers far away from here. I shall never be able to get them back!"

"Yes," the rabbi responded, "and neither will you be able to bring back

those hurtful words you spoke all those years. Once they are out of your mouth, no power on earth can ever bring them back or make them undo the harm they caused."

James the Apostle wrote a short letter to the earliest Christian communities, wherein he warned them about the dangers of an untamed tongue. James 3:5-6 "Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. Behold how little a fire kindles how large a forest! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. So the tongue is set among our members, spotting all the body and inflaming the course of nature, and being inflamed by hell."

I can relate to what James is talking about here, can't you? I would think that more than once each one of us has been guilty of saying words that intentionally or unintentionally caused another person pain and distress. The more of the Eastern European story is simple: Once our words have left our mouths, there is no way of ever taking them back. So we will be wise to adhere to another piece of James' advice: "Therefore, my beloved brothers, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath. For the wrath of man does not work out the righteousness of God." (James 1:19-20)

May God guard both our hearts and our tongues.

Submitted by: Doris Roark
Eaton Rapids, Mich.

Crossing the Valley

The pathway was smooth as I traveled along,
And I sang and rejoiced with many a song.
Sunshine was plenty and troubles were few,
This was the life that once I knew.

But on the horizon dark clouds came...
My life would never be the same.
A valley before me, so deep and so drear,
In horror I shivered and shrank back in fear.

The valley was shrouded with a blanket of night,
And I thought of the dark dangers still out of my sight.
So eerie and dreadful appeared the ravine.
The fearful path of the future unseen.

But something occurred in that uncertain hour.
The people were praying – I could feel the power.
What a blessing to have friends who care
Who carried me through on the wings of prayer.

Those threatening clouds still loom ahead,
And sometimes my heart doth tremble with dread,
But I am assured that my comforter's near.
I'll cling to His hand and walk without fear.

We may ask God "Why" when we don't understand,
But the answer and reason we cannot demand.
Whether clear skies await me, or storm clouds that break.
I know that our God never makes a mistake!

The Ellen Hoover Family sent this poem to me after my accident — Melvin.

Come to the
North Country Sustainable Energy Fair
April 25, 2009

In Canton NY at the SUNY campus off Rte 68

I plan to have a booth there with farm and garden information, vegetable oil conversion parts, The Boys' Bugle, and other things of interest. Also Rick Friedrich from Michigan plans to be there with his Renaissance battery chargers.



Remember to paste in Make an Economy Milk Strainer by Dawn

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 ✧

“I Am Not Inferior To You.” Job 12:3

By the Martins

Scripture references from
Webster's translation

Why do human beings sometimes act superior and put others down? Consider the story of Job. He lost his wealth, his children, and his health. His friends came to comfort him but ended up counseling, accusing, and condemning him. On top of intense grief and physical pain, Job was reduced to pleading for pity from his friends. But God had the final word.

There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and shunned evil. Job 1:1

In time, Satan came and told God, (in summary) “Job will curse you if you take his many riches and blessings from him.” So God allowed Satan to test Job by taking all his possessions and all his children. Job continued to worship and bless God.

Then his health was taken from him. His wife told him to curse God and die. **But he said to her...** What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job

sin with his lips. Job 2:10. He proved he did not serve God just for temporal riches and blessings.

Three friends came together to mourn with him and comfort him. When they saw him and did not recognize him, they wept. So they sat down with him upon the ground seven days and seven nights, and none spoke a word to him: for they saw that his grief was very great. Job 2:13

Then Job complained about his trouble.

Then a friend spoke, implying Job was guilty. Job continued to lament, reproached his friends, and defended himself. Then another friend accused him. The third one to reply, laid it on all the more. Because he maintained that he is clean, they said he is lying (11:3,4). Job accused them of lying and mocking.

After the three friends had rebuked, counseled, and instructed him about God, Job answers, No doubt but ye are the people, and wisdom shall die with you. But I have understanding as well as you; I am not inferior to you: Job

12:2-3. He said it again in 13:2. He longed for an impartial arbiter. (9:33) He begged them to specifically show him what his sins are. (6:24, 13:23)

His friends stepped up the accusations and the discussion got more heated. They claimed he is arrogant, crafty, sinful, a liar, and mocker. They were sure that Job sinned greatly and God was punishing him.

Then Job answered and said, I have heard many such things: miserable comforters are ye all. Job 16:1-2

Have pity upon me, have pity upon me, O ye my friends; for the hand of God hath touched me. Why do ye persecute me as God, and are not satisfied with my flesh? Oh that my words were now written! Oh that they were printed in a book! That they were graven with an iron pen in lead, in the rock for ever! Job 19:21-24. He knew that then future generations would judge him favorably!

He felt hopeless but was confident that he had a witness in heaven (16:19). He knew he would see his Redeemer (19:25-27).

After a lengthy discourse, Job still maintained his innocence and integrity. Then God answered him with many questions (38:1-41:34) which Job could not answer (40:3-5). Job was humbled and more aware of God's wisdom and his own limitations and sins. I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now my eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes. Job 42:5-6

Then God rebuked the three friends: ...for ye have not spoken

of me the thing that is right, as my servant Job hath. Job 42:7. He tells **them to ...go to my servant Job, and offer for yourselves a burnt-offering; and my servant Job shall pray for you: for him will I accept: lest I deal with you after your folly, in that ye have not spoken of me the thing which is right, like my servant Job.** Job 42:8

They obeyed. And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before. Job 42:10

The book of Job has over 300 questions in it, more than any other book in the Bible. In comparing the happenings in this book to happenings we see and experience today, more questions come to my mind.

How did Job's friends end up condemning him when they intended to comfort him? Did they really believe that trouble in a person's life is proof of that person's guilt of sin? Why did they think they understood more than Job and had all the answers to his dilemma?

Did their inability to show Job what his specific sins are, along with awareness of their own sins **and Job's refusal to submit to their abasement, move them to a jealous rage? Couldn't they accept that someone could be more righteous than what they inwardly knew that they were? Did they feel compelled to act superior to hide some underlying feelings of inferiority?**

Humanity hasn't changed much, have they? "Friends" still gang up on one who is down or

different. One criticizes or mocks him and then others are emboldened to jump on him too. Many today have this inferiority/superiority complex.

There are questions we can ask ourselves. How often do my good intentions end up making someone feel inferior and persecuted? Have I missed the mark?

Am I as forgiving toward my persecutors as I want others to be toward me? Have I experienced enough challenges, to say the least, and paid enough attention to God to see Him, like Job did (42:5)? Do I see (know and understand) His might and wisdom and my own limitations and sins? Do I pray for the friends who persecute me?

Am I really being persecuted or is someone trying to give help and advice that I sorely need? Do I end up actually being the persecutor? How much of the other side of the story do I see and understand? Do I care about the other ones or am I mostly thinking about my own comfort? Do I try to please God or am I more concerned about my image and being accepted by peers?

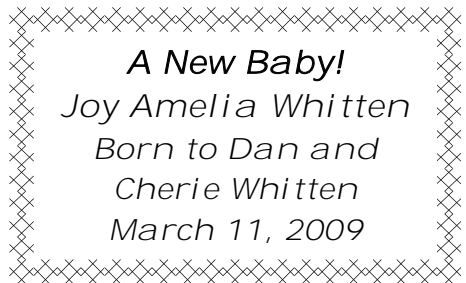
Some things I am sure of:

- God did not make you or anyone inferior.
- Only your own sins lower you.
- Others can certainly make you feel like you are inferior.
- Nobody wants to appear or feel as an inferior person to anybody.
- We must keep our focus on Jesus, not on trials and persecutors.
- We know little of what goes

on inside of others and of what they have faced. If we could see in the heart of our persecutors, we might be more concerned about them than about ourselves. Or maybe, we would stop blaming them and change our own conduct.

- Regardless of what our problem is, the power to overcome comes from God. Man can only help so far.
- The power to help another comes from God and the Holy Spirit.
- **We know little of God's** scheme of things.
- We all need to humble ourselves and repent.
- God puts us all on the same level. In Him we are unified. He hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places, in Christ Jesus: Ephesians 2:6.

What is God's final word to each of us? If we listen and see Him, humble ourselves, repent, obey, offer apologies and restitution when required, and pray for our friends, our trouble can also be turned into many more blessings than we had before. We human beings can be a blessing to each other—each on the same level. ✠



Excellent Wife ABC's

By Dawn Rosenbarker

A- Accept, Appreciate, Acknowledge, Admire

B- Believe, Bless, Bake

C- Care, Caress, Comfort, Cuddle, Cook, Clean

D- Delight, Defer, Desire

E- Enjoy, Embrace, Endear, Enrich, Endorse

F- Forgive, Feed, Free

G- Gather, Give, Gaze

H- Help, Honor, Hold, Hug

I- Inspire, Impress, Invite, Include

J- Join

K- Kiss, Keep, Know

L- Love, Laugh, Liven, Lure

M- Massage, Motivate, Mind, Mend

N- No Nagging, Nuzzle

O- Observe, Obey, Optimize

P- Praise, Pacify, Pat, Please

Q- Quiet, Question

R- Respect, Reassure, Revive, Remember, Relieve, Refresh

S- Submit, Support, Serve, Soothe

T- Tickle, Tease, Trust, Talk, Touch

U- Understand, Unite, Uplift

V- Visit, Value, Validate

W- Watch, Win

X- eXtol

Y- Yes Sir!

Z- Zillion Good Thoughts

*An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, but she
who causes shame is like rotteness in his bones.*

Proverbs 12:4

The Children's Challenge

To Charity and Cheerfulness

"GRANDMA"

By Jessica Hall age 11

Dedicated to my Grandmother

Grandma loves me, this I know.
Really, she loves me for this she shows.
And if I feel all down and scared.
Never will she leave me, for she loves and cares.
Dear Grandma, I love you so.
May God bless you for the love you show.
And remember, Grandma, I'll always love you,
because you always loved me!!

XXXXXXXXXX

FAMILY

By Jessica Hall

Forever cares for each other.
Always loving and kind
May not always understand me.
I love them so much that sometimes I cry.
Loves me till the day I die.
You always love me, I do not know why.

In specific dedication to my family.

I love you!!

Jessica

Saved

It was a nice fall morning when we called our Mom. We talked awhile. Then Mom told Dylan that Jessica was getting baptized. I felt so convicted of my sins I was going to stop by the side of the road after my trapping course, but I decided not to.

After Jessica got baptized, I went to the pond and asked God to save me. It was like a hundred pounds were lifted when I was baptized. The Lord had lifted my burden. It was the happiest day of my life when the Lord lifted my burden. I will never forget that day that Jesus took my sins away. I don't remember the exact words I said but I think the Lord remembers them and I think if I want to hear them again, I can ask the Lord and He will tell me them.

Sean
age 11

Nelson

* * * * *
 * Jesus Embrace *
 * Larisa Martin June 2008 *
 *
 * The beauties of nature *
 * ARE JESUS' EMBRACE *
 * The breezes caress me *
 * Raindrops kiss my face *
 *
 * Sunshine, His warm smile *
 * Green grass, a foot rub *
 * Love seems to come flowing *
 * From trees and the shrub *
 *
 * A rainbow, a promise *
 * Of mercy above *
 * The birds are all singing *
 * His message of love *
 *
 * I lift up my eyes *
 * To the clouds in the sky *
 * It draws my heart upward *
 * To Jesus on high *
 *
 * The flowers and butterflies *
 * The sky azure blue *
 * TO ME IT'S HIM SAYING *
 * "OH HOW I LOVE YOU!" *
 * * * * *

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

Psalm 133:1