May / June 2001 Volume 7 Number 3

# The Heartbeat of **The Remnant**

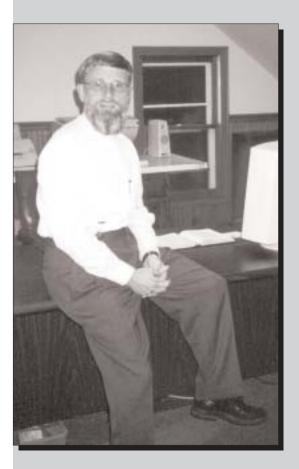
. . is Fresh Streams of Revival

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respond to the promptings of His Spirit. We request your prayerful consideration of this need. Send subscriptions or contributions to: The Heartbeat of The Remnant, 59 S. Groffdale Rd., Leola, PA 17540-9533 U.S.A. You can call 1-800-227-7902 or (717) 656-4155.

# From the Editor's Desk

by Denny Kenaston



I is now ten months since we began to focus on giving *The Remnant* a new heart. The issue you have in your hands is the fifth one of these new issues. We bless and praise God our Father for all the help He has given us through the many learning experiences we have gone through. We are also very thankful for so many of you who have given us positive and negative input as we find our way in putting a magazine together that glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. I have been delightfully surprised many times as I read some of your responses. Please keep them coming. I would desire much more interaction from many of you. Questions, testimonies, a short article you feel might bless others, or a poem—all of these are appreciated.

Ten months ago when we agreed to take the job of editor, I knew that there were many people who were receiving *The Remnant* but were not reading much of it. I also knew that this was a waste of the Lord's money. I feel it is now time to begin working to eliminate some of this waste. You have now received five issues, and can better determine if you want to be on our active mailing list. We want to continue to send *The Remnant* to anyone who desires to read it. At the same time, we do not want to carry the cost of publication and mailing to those who let it lay, or those who throw it away without reading it. We are a faith based ministry, and plan to continue to operate this way. Because we do not charge a certain amount of money for the magazine, it is harder for us to tell where the real desire is. Our plan is to begin to build an <u>active mailing list.</u>

Let me define what I mean by active. Our active list will consist of the names of the people that we hear from—by letter, by phone, or by E-mail. Your name will become active when we receive correspondence from

you. Your name will stay active the same way. If we do not hear from you for one year, your name will become inactive. Whenever we hear from you, the date of your subscription will be extended for one year from that date. All of this is being set in order so that we can be better stewards of time and money.

In the center of this issue you will find a short form to fill out and mail back to us. This will automatically put you on the <u>active mailing list</u>. The last time the board met we discussed the best way to get the best response from you. It was suggested to give you a self-addressed card with a stamp on it. This would be the easiest for you, as everyone is busy. As I pondered this idea, my second thoughts were negative. This is not junk mail, designed to catch your attention and move you to a quick response. We truly want to develop an active file of names who are drawing strength from the publication. Therefore, we are appealing to you to make the effort. Please take a moment, fill out the form, and mail it back to us. You will notice also that we have provided a place where you can notify us of a friend whom you feel would be blessed by *The Remnant*. Please send us their name and address and we will send them a sample issue. (If they respond, they will be added to the <u>active mailing list</u>.)

-Bro. Denny

"Wilt thou not revive us again, that thy people may rejoice in Thee?" Psalm 85:6

# What Is Rev

by Denny Kenaston



e live in a day and an age when there is a desperate need to answer this question. Some would say we are on the wake of a worldwide revival. Others say we are living in a time of worldwide apostasy. I am

not going to address these issues directly in this article; however, a clear definition of this historically powerful word will help to draw some much needed lines in our day. We will draw our definition from three major sources. They are the Bible, which defines its own words so beautifully, comparing scripture with scripture; the historical records of the movements of the Holy Ghost since Pentecost; and my own gleanings through many years of reading everything I could find on revival.

#### REVIVAL IS...

This word, according to its biblical definition, means, to revitalize, to energize, and to quicken again.

#### REVIVAL IS...

The simple prefix at the beginning of the word is a powerful insight to its definition. "Re" in front of a word always means "to do again, as in restore, and renew." "Do it again, Lord," should be our constant plea.

#### REVIVAL IS...

A season of refreshing from the presence of the Lord. Acts 3.

<u>*R* E V I V A L I S . . .</u> A people saturated with God. Duncan Campbell, Scottish islands, 1953.

#### REVIVAL IS...

Note this example of revival praying from the records of the revival in the Scottish islands in 1953: In the midst of great opposition, a half night of prayer was called. Duncan Campbell called on a local blacksmith to pray about midnight. He prayed for about a half an hour and closed with these words. "Oh, God, Your honor is at stake. You promised that You would pour floods upon the dry ground, and You have not done it yet. Your name is at stake, Lord." After this prayer the place was shaken where they prayed. When they went outside about 2 A.M., the whole community was alive with the presence of God. People were carrying chairs to the church house, preparing to go to a meeting as if it was 10 A.M. Sunday morning.

## REVIVAL IS...

The word revival is for the church first, not for the community. Many confuse its meaning, thinking that it is a series of meetings for the community.

#### REVIVAL IS...

A visitation of God among His people.

#### REVIVAL IS...

As A.W. Tozer always said, "Revival will change the moral climate of the community." All true revival will affect others. Wherever there is an inflow of the grace of God, there will always be an outflow of the same. *"I will pour water on him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground." Isaiah 44:3* 

#### REVIVAL IS...

Judgement day early. When God's Spirit visits a people in answer to believing prayer, He will send illumination to each heart. The people will be convicted of sin, and will begin to judge themselves as is mentioned in I Corinthians 11.

#### REVIVAL IS...

As it was in King Josiah's day. They found the Book of the Law stashed away in the dusty parts of the temple. When the King found out, he had it read outloud to him. He discovered how many ways they were breaking God's Laws and repented. He led the people to repent, and they had a national revival. Dozens of practical areas changed in the land. Do it again, Lord.

#### REVIVAL IS...

God pointing His finger at me. It's "not my brother, or my sister, but it's me, Oh, Lord, standing in the need of prayer." It is when we quit judging one another, but turn to the Lord and see the beams that are in our eyes.

#### REVIVAL IS...

An organized disorder. From God's perspective, He is leading all the way. But from man's point of view, it seems like things are not quite in order. When revival broke out in Andrew Murray's church, he tried to stop it. The people were weeping and wailing, and some were rejoicing over their new freedom all at the same time. "This can't be right," he said, and tried to stop them.

#### REVIVAL IS...

When God's people bring their salvation experience up-to-date. Many in the church today continue to give a testimony of what God did for them at the moment of the new birth. This is good, but when Revival comes, they begin to share what God is doing in their life today. Salvation is an ongoing experience of fellowship with the living God.

#### REVIVAL IS...

When we become willing to get thoroughly right with God, and completely right with our fellow men. One revivalist said, "draw a circle on the floor, then get in the circle yourself, then pray that God will send revival inside this circle.

#### REVIVAL IS...

A return to New Testament Christianity. The history books are full of testimonies where God began to move upon a people, they started confessing their sins, the Spirit was poured out, and the desire and power to return to the Early Church pattern rose in every heart.

#### REVIVAL IS...

When God becomes a living reality again. God's presence becomes real, and His voice is heard again, deep in the soul.

The list of definitions could be endless. How many different ways do you want to describe the supernatural workings of God? It is debated in these last days whether revival is still a possibility. What do you think? The bottom line definition of revival is God. That may sound oversimplified but it is not. David said in the Psalms, "God is become my salvation." That is it in a nutshell. The reality of the presence of the living God is salvation. Salvation is more than a judicial transaction in heaven because of the atonement of Christ. It is God and man having fellowship again because of the cross.

It is hard to give definition to the word revival without describing the experience of revival. The reason for this is that revival is an experience.

When you have lost your first love relationship with God, you have lost an experience, you have lost the reality of God loving you, and you loving God. Surely God expects us to have a personal revival if we have lost our way with Him. But what about the church? The whole church at Ephesus had lost their first love, and they were admonished to get back to the way it was in the beginning. Study the way it was for them in Acts 19. and also

the way it was when Paul wrote them his Epistle. So, a church can surely have revival. I know of no less than sixty accounts of widespread revival over the last six hundred years, where a whole area or even nation has been griped with the presence of God, and the moral climate of the whole community was altered.

In all these cases, and there are probably many more, the people of that day were led by God to record the things that were happening. I am so grateful that they were. Now I can read the accounts, and be stirred to pray and believe God for the same thing in my day. "We have heard with our ears, O God, our fathers have told us, what work thou didst in their days. in the times of old" Psalm 44:1. The only problem I have with this verse is that our fathers had nothing to tell us. There has been very little revival in our time, which is all the more reason for us to long for it. We must have something to tell our children or they may not make it. A dry, stuffy religion is all they will have if we don't get some fresh blessing from God.

I see a pattern in many of these revivals of the past. It begins with a great lack, followed by a few longing hearts. Those who are sighing and crying for the need that is all around them, and in their own lives also. Often, with the revelation of the need, comes a reading of some account of the holy

"The bottom line definition of revival is God. That may sound oversimplified but it is not. David said in the Psalms, 'God is become my salvation.' That is it in a nutshell. The reality of the presence of the living God is salvation."

movements of God in the past. This sparks desire, spiritual desire, sanctified desire. that moves a group of longing hearts to pray. As prayer proceeds, personal needs begin to surface, and as these are dealt with, prayer becomes more intense. If a group of people will stay in this posture and travail in prayer, they will prevail with God, and revival will come. It may only be to a small group, or a church full of seeking brethren. It could be to

their community. Brothers and sisters, we need it. I know that I need it in my own life. I know that our brotherhood stands in need of fresh streams of revival. And, oh, to see God reach outside the church again to touch the community. Do it again, Lord. Do it again.  $\Box$ 



by Andrew Weaver

# Why Revival Tarries

by Leonard Ravenhill

eonard Ravenhill was a modern-day prophet whose pen was powerful and unapologetic. ▲ He was distressed at the condition of the modern church, and deeply burdened for revival. His unforgettable book, Why Revival Tarries, carries a scorching, searching message. A.W. Tozer, writing the foreword to this book, said, Toward Leonard Ravenhill it is impossible to be neutral. His acquaintances are divided pretty neatly into two classes, those who love and admire him out of all proportion and those who hate him with perfect hatred. And what is true of the man is sure to be true of his books. of this book. The reader will either close its pages to seek a place of prayer or he will toss it away in anger... I hope that if you have never read Why Revival Tarries, you will soon read it and be one of those who seeks a place of prayer afterward. The depravity of the modern church is even more desperate today than when the book was first published in 1959, and the message more urgently needed than ever.

The author had a unique gift of making unforgettable, alliterative statements that burn themselves into the memory of the reader. Consider these thoughts on prayer, the key to revival: *We have many organizers, but few agonizers; many play-*



ers and payers, few pray-ers; many singers, few clingers; many fears, few tears; much fashion, little passion; many writers, but few fighters. Failing here, we fail everywhere...Surely revival delays because prayer decays...The secret of praying is praying in secret. A sinning man will stop praying, and a praying man will stop sinning.

Decrying the fact that money is the greatest cause of anxiety in modern churches, and comparing that to the experience of the early church, he writes, *Our accent is on paying, theirs was on praying. When we have paid, the place is taken; when they had prayed, the place was shaken!* 

Another chapter states, ... There is a world of difference between knowing the Word of God and knowing the God of the Word... What use is deeper knowledge if we have shallower hearts? And in a call for prophets to rise up and awaken the sleeping church, Ravenhill lamented, In the church, pillars have given place to pillows... This unbiblical distorted thing called the church, that mixes with the world and dishonors its so-called Lord, has been found out for what it is, a fraud... Today we seem much more interested in having churches air-conditioned than prayer conditioned... Never before have men in the masses sold their souls to the devil at such bargain prices.

No doubt Leonard Ravenhill knew from his own experience that prophets are usually despised while they live, and only their sepulchres are later garnished by a guilty generation. He considered it much more important to be known (and feared) by the hosts of hell than to be known and admired of men. He wrote, ... We had better live six months with a volcanic heart, denouncing sin in places high and low and turning the nation from the power of Satan unto God (as John the Baptist did) rather than die loaded with ecclesiastical honors and theological degrees and be the laughing stock of hell... Preachers make pulpits famous; prophets make prisons famous... We are tired of men in soft raiment and softer speech who use rivers of words with but a spoonful of unction.

In a chapter titled "Wanted—A Prophet to Preach to the Preachers!" we read, *John* [the Baptist] *was a "Voice." Most preach*-

ers are only echoes, for if you listen hard, you will be able to tell what latest book they have read... To reach the masses we need a Voice—a heaven-sent prophet to preach to preachers! ... We have equipment but not enduement; action but not unction; rattle but not revival. We are dogmatic but not dynamic! ... This generation of preachers is responsible for this generation of sinners. We are suffering today from a plague of ministers who are more concerned that their **heads should be filled** than that their **hearts should be fired**... The Church **began** with these men in the 'upper room' agonizing—and today is ending with men in the supper room organizing. The Church began in

"We had better live six months with a volcanic heart, denouncing sin in places high and low and turning the nation from the power of Satan unto God (as John the Baptist did) rather than die loaded with ecclesiastical honors and theological degrees and be the laughing stock of hell... Preachers make pulpits famous; prophets make prisons famous... We are tired of men in soft raiment and softer speech who use rivers of words with but a spoonful of unction."

revival; we are ending in ritual. Men need to be...passionate Pauls to stir timid Timothys; men of flame to outshine and outburn men of name! We need knights of prayer to lead nights of prayer. We need true prophets to warn of false profits, "for what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" Later, the modern, easy 'conversion' without repentance is condemned. ... The onslaught of Peter, fresh from his fiery baptism of the Spirit, shook the crowd until as one man they cried out, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Imagine someone telling those sin-stricken men, "Just sign a card! Attend church regularly! Pay your tithes!" No! A thousand times NO!

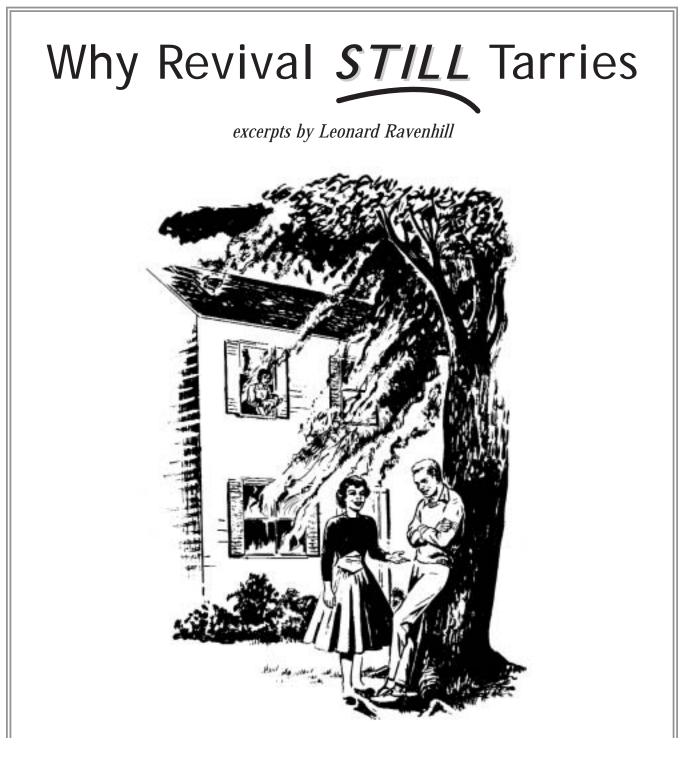
In the final chapters, the author returns to his constant theme, the need for earnest, intercessory prayer to precede revival. ... You cannot estimate prayer power. Prayer is as vast as God because He is behind it. Prayer is as mighty as God, because He has committed Himself to answer it...Does "prayer change things"? Yes, but prayer changes men. If you have a burden for revival, I urge you to read this book and let God use it to change your burden into an obsession. Or if you don't yet have a burden for revival, read it and receive a burden. And then

begin by looking into your own heart and allowing God to deal with the things that are the reason *Why Revival Tarries.*  $\Box$ 

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This is a chapter that was never written. Or maybe it is the title to a book that was never written. I fondly remember the only visit I was privileged to have with Leonard Ravenhill. He was eighty-four at the time. He was slow on his feet, but he had a hot fire burning in his heart. As I sat down to talk with this old prophet, he picked up a 15-minute sand glass, turned it over, and said, "You have 15 minutes." This didn't surprise me. I knew he was a very busy man. So I quickly started asking my questions, one eye on him, and one on the sand that was falling swiftly. As the last grains of sand were falling, and my heart was falling because I had many more burdens to share, I felt his hand on my shoulder. Then he said with a calming voice, "Relax. I use this sand glass to take care of the time wasters. We can talk for a good while yet."

We shared many things that day: dreams, visions, and burdens over the condition of God's

people. I asked him if he was writing any books. He said that someday he wants to write a book with the title <u>Why Revival Still Tarries</u>, but he is waiting until shortly before he dies, because he feels many would be offended and not understand his burden. Well, he never wrote the book, but I never forgot the title. We drew exerts out of one of his books that clearly answer the question. He writes with a sharp pointed pen—I like it that way.

-- The editor

- ♦ Without exception, all true revivals of the past began after years of agonizing, hell-robbing, earth-shaking, heaven-sent intercession.
- ☆ The church won't get a divorce from the world and worldliness and she can't ignore so-called Christian entertainers who attempt to combine Hollywood and holiness.
- ♦ Reformation in the church must precede the true spiritual awakening which alone can save our generation.
- ✤ Today, deacons and elders are usually "men of standing." In the New Testament church they were "men of kneeling."
- ♦ Does the Bible say, "Sing without ceasing?" Or did Jesus say, "Men ought always to sing, and not to faint?" Yet today we have gone overboard on singing.
- ♦ In 1932, every Salvation Army Corps had a four or five-hour prayer meeting each Saturday night.
- ☆ Men who long ago lost their anointing still minister, using the same cliches and mannerisms. They are just "clouds without water."
- ♦ We must face the fact that (with all our mass evangelism; with all our compromised, theatrical presentation of the Gospel; with all the billions spent on radio and television preaching) we have not made a dent in the moral corruption of the nations.

## I'm Resting in the Lord

I must be carried to the skies On flowery beds of ease. Let others fight to win the prize And battle on their knees.

I cannot fight, but I must reign In heaven's blest abode. I'm glad that some endure the pain; I'm resting in the Lord!

There are no foes for me to face. My pastor is so good. He says, "Just draw on saving grace And love the brotherhood."

I am a soldier of the cross, Unfaithful though I am. I pay my tithes for His own cause But blush to speak His name.

I'm sure in that day of rewards, He'll give me some small prize; And my so gracious loving Lord Will wipe tears from my eyes.

### How Do You Take it Easy?

How do you take it easy When His fire burns within? How do you take it easy In a world that's crushed by sin?

How do you take it easy With a thousand tribes to tell? How do you take it easy In a world that speeds to hell?

How do you take it easy While the church sleeps in its lees? How do you take it easy— Will someone tell me please?

- ♦ How can they hear without a soul-hot preacher declaring that this generation of believers is responsible for this generation of lost multitudes?
- ☆ "Truth is fallen in the street." What is far worse, truth lies fallen in the pulpits today.
- ☆ Today we have "another gospel." The cross is a pretty, ornamental thing in gold or silver, decorated (if you can afford it) with diamonds or rubies. It is a "charm" for some, held not in fear but in superstitious "reverence."
- $\diamond$  I am distressed at the zeal of heretics and at the amnesia of the believers.
- ♦ Where, oh, where are the eternity-conscious believers? Where are the souls white-hot for God who fear His holy name, presence, and so live with eternity's values?
- ♦ The church fresh from the Upper Room invaded the world; now the church in the supper room is invaded by the world. The New Testament church did not depend on a moral majority, but rather on the holy minority. The church right now has more fashion than passion, is more pathetic than prophetic, is more superficial than supernatural. The church the Apostles ministered in was a suffering church; today we have a sufficient church. Events in the Spirit-controlled church were amazing; in this day the church is often just amusing. The New Testament church was identified with persecutions, prisons, and poverty; today many of us are identified with prosperity, popularity, and personalities.
- ☆ If He is not in us, then all hope is gone and we had better close every church in the land. If He is in us, then let's repent of all our folly, seek cleansing from all our carnality, and then, cleansed and filled, march to victory.
- $\diamond\,$  Revival is God's coming to the aid of His sick church.

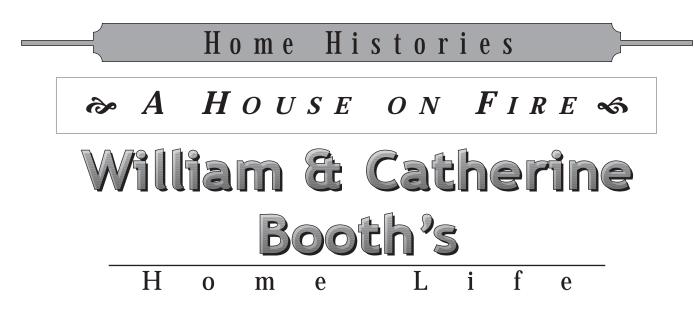
- ∻ Evangelism today gropes along on the crutches of heavy finance and super organization, with a star-studded platform, but Revival does not cost a penny.
- ☆ "Therefore also now, saith the Lord, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: and rend your heart, and not your garments." Joel 2:12, 13
- ☆ The mighty gospel of our redeeming Lord has become show business. All this dressing up to attempt to hide the fact that the altar has no fire, the preaching has not power, the Holy One is not in attendance.
- ◇ Our poverty in the prayer closet is the seedbed of all our failure. Failing there, we fail everywhere. Poverty in prayer produces poverty in the pulpit. There is nothing that we need more today than a school of prayer.
- ♦ I am sure that the main reason we do not have a national revival, beginning with personal revival, is that we are content to live without it.

#### I Am a Slave

I am a slave! I have no will, no claim To property, to time, or sleep. I am a slave, and bear my Owner's Name! His ways are mine; with Him I joy or weep.

I am a slave! No tears are spent for ease, Nor do I freedom crave; A willing slave am I to follow to the grave My Master. Bless His Name!

Excerpts were taken from *Revival God's Way*, by Leonard Ravenhill. Copyright ©1983, Bethany House Publishers.



by Denny Kenaston



hen revival fires continue to burn in the lives of God's saints, they will have a powerful effect upon the next generation. We see this so clearly in two New Testament

examples. The house of Stephanas, whose whole house "addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints," I Cor. 16:15. Then we also have the house of Philip the evangelist, who "had four daughters, Home Histories

virgins, which did prophesy," Acts 21:8,9. The fruit of continuous revival is a many-generation foundation in the home. The house of William Booth is a challenging example of a dedicated man and his wife. In the past, our Home Histories have focused on the homes that produced some of the choice servants of Christ. We have done this so that you could see what was happening behind the scenes, to see the principles that were at work to raise up a servant. In this Home History, the focus will be different. Even though we could reach back into the history of both William and Catherine Booth, and we may do this in a later article, I feel we can all benefit more by looking into their home. It was truly a house on fire with the love and zeal of God.

# A Balanced View of the Kingdom

William Booth's home was a godly home at its best. There are so many areas that we could cover, but space will not allow it. The far reaching effects of this home would take scores of hours to investigate. As I have been studying the Booth home it has become very clear to me that they had a beautiful balance of two major commands in the Word of God. They were to win souls, and to raise your children. God's kingdom is built in these two ways. We are commanded to train up a generation of children who love God with all their heart, mind, and soul. We are also commanded to preach the Gospel and make disciples in the world around us and in all the world. These two major commands can easily get out of balance. History is full of examples of men who won the world and lost their children. On the other hand there are innumerable cases where parents focused on the children, and did nothing to win a lost world around them. This type of parent tends to raise a generation of separatists who quickly become ingrown, legalistic, and unconcerned for their neighbors' lost condition. William and Catherine had a beautiful, balanced vision of both of these commandments. We will study how they blended the two together later on in the article.

# The United Vision of Husband and Wife

In my studies of home histories, I often find that one parent is very dedicated to the cause of the children, and the other is not. This can be an encouragement, because it is often the case with many of us. There is hope for your children even if you feel very alone at times. God will bless your efforts, sanctify your children, and use them for his glory. However, when we look at the house of William Booth, it was united with a zeal to raise the family for God. I have often said, "If we can get the father and mother to join forces, and with a unified front preserve a godly seed, who knows what could happen." This home is one of those rare examples of husband and wife working together for the common goal of raising the children. According to the history books, a godly, unified, sanctifying home was one of the foundation stones of the entire Salvation Army. In other words, they had a vision of the responsibility and the outcome of such an approach to family life. And both of them pursued it with all of their hearts. May our dear heavenly Father grant to us parents such a united vision for the same.

# The Foundation of an Army

Through the years of Christian history, there have been many movements that arose to further the kingdom. Many of them have centered on the zeal of youth for the labor force behind them. The Salvation Army was no exception. There is, however, one area where they differed from many of the others. William Booth was burdened for godly homes, and believed that the members of God's Home Histories

Army should get married and raise a family for the glory of God. He believed that the most effective soldiers are trained in the home. Here again we can see that his vision for the home was well defined in his theology, and filled with meaning and purpose. He and his wife Catherine were inflamed with the potential of what homes could do in the building of the kingdom. I believe this flowed out of what they were seeing and experiencing in their own home. This vision overflowed into the main teachings of the Salvation Army. My heart unites with the burden this couple had as I study some of the history and teachings of the movement.

# Wisdomis Justified of Her Children

These words come from the mouth of the Lord Jesus in Matt. 11:19b. Our Lord spoke these words referring to the ministry of John the Baptist and his own ministry as well. Many were speaking critically of them both, and Jesus simply said, "Wisdom is justified of her children." We have an American proverb that is often used which says the same thing; "The proof is in the pudding." This principle was clearly fulfilled in the home of William and Catherine Booth. God gave them eight precious children through their union. All of them rose up and said "I am the Lord's." All of them loved God with all their hearts, and spent their days in sacrificial service in various aspects of the Salvation Army and other organizations. France, India, Switzerland, and America were some of the places of service. Writers, organizers, administrators, teachers, preachers, trainers, and godly fathers and mothers were their occupations all the days of their lives. From these eight children came forty-five grandchildren. All of them grew up and chose to serve the God of their grandfather and grandmother. Many of them enlisted in the Salvation Army, spending their lives to reach the down-and-outers with the gospel. We should also note, without much surprise, that many of the

great-grandchildren gave themselves to God and are serving him to this day. By 1960, the Army had grown to number four million, with works in eighty-six countries, among more than one hundred languages.

We would not agree with everything that the Salvation Army stood for. Neither could we agree with all the methods in which they carried out their vision. However, it was a force for the salvation of souls for nearly one hundred years. In this I do agree, and God agrees, and God the Holy Ghost also agreed by bearing witness to the work. Can we look past some issues so that we can glean from the example of how they raised their children? Their house was on fire continually, burning with an atmosphere of the spirit, and functioning as a training camp for soldiers. What can we learn from them?

# Divine

# Purpose

William and Catherine Booth were filled with a desire to serve God. To reach the poor whom others had neglected was their greatest longing. Only the Good News of salvation can change them and give them a hope for a better life. These kind of goals consumed them from the beginning. We all know that with goals like these, they could have easily viewed the coming of children as a burden they had no time for. This was not the case. Because of the love they had for God, they saw each child as a potential servant of the most high God. The vision was clear to them. God gave the children with purpose, and they belong to Him. There is much more material written about their methods of training children than can be covered in this article. It is very clear to me that what they did in the home was done with purpose, and a good grasp on the promises hidden in the commands. Father and Mother knew where they were going with each child. Multitudes of methods were carried out on purpose, with vision, and in faith. The end of all these activities was a soldier of Jesus Christ.

# Start When They are Young

At the Booth home, teaching and training began at a very early age. The first four or five years were the most important ones. Extra time and care was given to the children during these early years.

Whom shall he teach knowledge? Whom shall he make to understand doctrine? Them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breast. Is. 28:9

Awesome texts and Bible stories were given to the children, while they sat on a knee in the nursery. Truth was simplified and brought down to the level of the child's understanding. "*Precept upon precept, line upon line, here a little, and there a little. Isaiah 29:10* Many times they grieved over the general lack of understanding among God's people in this area. It is still true today. Most parents have very little understanding about the holy impressions that can be made on our children when they are very young. Catherine said to her husband in a letter, "I believe in training children to be Christians from babyhood". Please note that she also believed that every child must come to a personal saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

# A Decisive Dedication

William Booth believed that every child given to us by God belongs to God. A very high value was placed on every one. With that high value came high responsibilities. They consecrated each child to God in a most meaningful way. Promises were made to Him, promises to raise, nurture, discipline, and love the child into a personal choice of salvation and dedication. I like this practice, and we have always given our children to the Lord at their birth, followed by similar promises. The Salvation Army had a baby dedication service when a child was born to a couple. They didn't believe in infant baptism, but they did press the burden and charge upon the parents through this service. I personally think that this should be done by the parents at birth, however, it seems that so many do not have such a vision. So many fathers and mothers are greatly lacking in the commitment it takes to carry out such a lofty task. Below is a list of the promises made in their dedication service.

- I promise to give the child to God all of its days.
- I promise to train, nurture, and strengthen the child in Christ's ways.
- I promise to guide my child to always be engaged in the Salvation War.
- I promise to raise the child to be a servant of the living God.
- I promise to keep from my child strong drink, tobacco, finery, wealth, hurtful reading, dangerous acquaintances, and everything that would hinder the child from being a soldier.
- I promise to allow my child to go wherever God should send him, and willing that he or she should be despised, hated, cursed, beaten, imprisoned, and killed for Christ's sake.
- Finally, all the present children in the family promise to do their part to help reach these goals for the new baby.

Can you catch the vision that is clearly laid out in these promises? You may react to this kind of dedication service, but let us not be too critical when we fall so short of such high goals for our children. Let us bring our children unto Jesus H o m

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and give them to Him, that He might lay His hands on them and bless them and use them for His eternal purposes.

# Cbedience and Discipline

Catherine expressed the proper balance of these two in a very clear way. She said, "We must wage war with the child's self-will and subdue it." It seems to me that she must have read the words of Susannah Wesley, who also expressed herself in clear tones about the will of the child. William wrote a book on child training in 1884. I love this title, How to Make the Children into Saints and Soldiers of Jesus Christ. He was fifty-two at the time. The children were all solidly grounded in the faith, and busy about the Master's business. He had earned the right to address the issue. The whole book is worthy of careful reading. The section on obedience and discipline reads like the book of Proverbs. "Chastise your children," he would say, " not out of vengeance, but for their profit". The book was reprinted by Schmul Publishers under the title, The Training of Children.

# School at Home

William and Catherine were both very concerned about the poor condition of private and public education in their day. The cities were filling up with people, and with that came many evil influences. Catherine's mother schooled her at home out of the same burden. "A companion of fools will be destroyed" and the schools were full of them. The evil potential was one motivation, but the other was simply out of a desire to train the children for God. In his book on child training, William encourages parents to teach them at home. This was no little task for the mother of the home, and she did enlist some help doing it, but let us remember, she was also the mother of the Salvation Army. William helped by engaging the family in meaningful and educational dialogue at the family table. Many were the lively conversations about the latest political debate, or some new mission field abroad.

# The Work of God

Here we have one of their main secrets that assured them of the next generation. The salvation of souls, and the building of God's kingdom, were the center of life and activity at the Booth home. Can you imagine what it was like to grow up in a home where something divine was happening all the time? The children literally grew up on the edge of their seat, as they listened day by day to the stories of God's present work. This created a longing in each one of them from an early age. But stories were not enough for the children. They were going to be servants of God, every one of them, so they were taken along on the many exploits of father and mother as soon as it was possible. They were carefully guided into the work, on levels which they could handle for their age. We all know what happened. The children caught the fire, and nothing else but the Salvation War would satisfy them. As I study honestly the activities of this couple, I feel they were too busy, and should have taken even more time with the children. Even though this was the case, because they involved the family in the work, this more than made up for the lack.



As we look through the early writings of the Salvation Army, it is clear that they viewed Home Histories

wealth as a very dangerous influence. The children were in the training stages of life during the beginning days of the organization. These were days of poverty. The Booths lived by faith, trusting God to provide for the family, as well as for the Army. In those days many of God's people looked on like Pharisees at these bold and noisy soul winners. This brought many disciplines and much self-denial into the daily experience of the whole family. The clothes had to last longer, the girls had to learn to sew from Mother, and the children learned to keep a garden and tend to animals out of necessity. Foods were wholesome but simple. Rice pudding was the treat at the Booth home, not a candy bar or a soda. These deprivations were not seen as a burden, but rather as positive principles of self-denial. As I continue to study different biographies, I have noted that all of them had blessed experiences of poverty that formed their character. We who live in America, the land of plenty, beware of the dangers of all our wealth. We can easily spoil a generation of potential soldiers by simply going with the flow of our present day society.

# Prevailing Atmosphere

What happens to the silent atmosphere of the home where two people love their God with all their heart, and with all their soul, and with all their mind? What are the mysterious effects of a couple who walk with God, and live under the anointing of His Spirit all the day long? We all know the answers to these questions. It was said of Papa that his enthusiasm was contagious, and Mother's personality was like a magnet, drawing the children into her heart. The home was a place of overflowing joy. William sang continually in his house as he was about his daily duties. An atmosphere of love prevailed in the Booth home, and graced the more difficult parts of training. This holy fragrance is so important in a Christian home. There are many strict do's and don'ts in the training of godly children. If the sweet spirit of love and zeal are missing, then the rules can have a negative affect. A parent's love for God and for the children falls like mercy drops upon them all day long. I know no other way to allow God to be an active laborer in the building of your house. Dear fathers and mothers, let us be continually filled with the Spirit in our homes.

# Family Fun

At first glance one might be tempted to think that this home was too strict and full of heavy demands on the little ones. This was not the case. Life was grand, filled with joy, and every little part was enjoyed to the fullest. William and Catherine had a very healthy, happy view of every part of life. They loved nature, and all the animals that God created. Every house they lived in (and they lived in many, because of Papa's ministry), had a playroom. This was the room where the children could romp and play to their hearts' content. Toys were bought at great sacrifice, and used as tools for training the children. Because of the nature of their father's work, there was always an open-air service going on in the playroom. A family party on Friday night was something the children anticipated with joy. A snack of nuts and fruits, a game to play, and lots of laughter, was the order of these parties. Then there were those family days, when they would all load up in the wagon. A Bible, a songbook, some toys, and a picnic lunch, were the provisions of the day. It was said of William, that he was like a school-boy, laughing, and singing, and joking, as they left the city for a day of family fun in the forest. To me, this is beautiful. The General was a very serious man as he guided the growing organization, but, when he came home to his children, he could be their friend and buddy. I should hasten to say at the close of this point that his definition of fun had nothing to do with worldly amusements.

# The Power of Marital Love

This is one of the most important aspects of their godly home, and carried more influence then most could imagine. They loved each other deeply, extravagantly, and at times fanatically. Their marital love began with a good foundation of godly courtship. The engagement was long, because the provider of the home was very poor. This made many inner struggles for William as you men can imagine. He felt he was not fit to take a wife. In their courtship days, they didn't see each other a lot as he was always away preaching somewhere. These separations only increased their love and devotion to one another. With this foundation. love continued to mature after marriage. It was clear to all who knew them that they loved and respected each other. The effects of this wonderful oneness upon the next generation can only be measured in eternity. The opposite is

are hurting, let us heal them at all cost.

There is much more that could be written about this Salvation Army home, but we have run out of space allotted for this article. There is much written already that is worthy of our meditations. William wrote a book on the home. Catherine's biographers recorded much about how she guided her home, and ever their daughter Catherine wrote a book on the home. All of this material is excellent reading, although I don't know how much of it is still in print. We have found an unusual home here, and I pray God to raise up so many like it that it becomes the norm, and not something special. William and Catherine had a great burden for Christian homes. Their whole life and ministry was filled with this foundation stone. It was in their heart, and they taught it to their children, who arose and taught to their children, that the generation to come might know the mighty works of God. Brethren, let us do likewise. May God grant us a house that is on Fire.

also true. Nothing hurts the next generation like a troubled marriage.

When there is love at home it breeds security and trust in the children. When there is love at home, it makes obedience come so much easier for the child. Malachi 2 says "And wherefore made he them one? That he might seek a godly seed." If marriages our

To the front! The cry is ringing To the front! Your place is there In the conflict men are wanted Men of hope, and faith, and prayer. Selfish ends shall claim no right From the battle's post to take us Fear shall vanish in the fight For triumphant God will make us.

To the front no more delaying Wounded spirits need thy care To the front the Lord obeying Stoop to help the dying there. Broken hearts and blighted hopes Slaves of sin and degradation Wait for thee in love to bring Holy peace and liberation

#### Chorus

No retreating, hell defeating Shoulder to shoulder we stand God, look down, with glory crown All our conquering band. Victory for me! Through the blood of Christ, my Savior Victory for me! Through the precious blood.

--Herbert Booth's victory song

# Sharpened Words for Little Ones

Dear parents,

This section of the Remnant is specially designed to help all the parents better fulfill

God's command to teach our children. You will notice that this section is laid out in such a way that you can cut it out before the

children get to it. We have done this so that the fathers can use the ideas in family devotions. We have learned that the more you think like a teacher, the more you will become one. In other words, put on the mind of a teacher. These suggestions are given to help you do just that. In Isaiah 28:9-10 we have a beautiful instructive word for parents.

Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? Them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; Line must be upon line, line upon line; Here a little, and there a little....

These words describe so clearly the duties of parents concerning the word. How can we do this, unless we find ways to sharpen the word of God? We must break it down into a form that is easily understood by the little ones. They <u>can</u> receive it, or else God would not have told us to teach them even when they are very young.

# May the Lord make you a Teacher

--The editors

### Current Events

Let me explain this one just a bit. Many times there are different current events that provide a teachable moment in family devotions. It could be anything—a presidential election, or some natural disaster-anything that draws us to a scriptural principle. I use these to make Bible applications to a real world. Maybe some foolish boys have been out smashing mailboxes; teach on it. Maybe the police found some young girls out late at night; find some verses and teach on that. Once you get alert to the opportunities that you have using current events, you will see them everywhere. Every generation of fathers and mothers must give practical applications of the word of God to the next generation. Each generation grows up in a different world than the previous one. This has never been so true as it is today. The world is changing so fast.

#### Beware of the Whisper

To get everyones attention, start out your devotional time whispering. Each time you call a song, or make a comment, do it in a whisper. Children are very familiar with whispering, but do not know the dangers that are hidden in it. Once you have their interest and curiosity engaged, open to the several verses in the Bible on this subject and read them. Most of them are warning signs of danger and evil. Telling and keeping secrets is taboo for children. At our house you never keep a secret from Mom and Dad. Secrets are usually told in a whisper; people change the tone of their voice when they are going to tell you something they don't want you to tell. When someone is going to tell you some story about someone else, they will usually lower their voice as they begin to tell you the evil report. Children can be taught to be alert to these dangers. Another danger with whispering is when they are trying to get you to sneak off and do something that you shouldn't do. Usually the person with the evil motive will lower the voice to a whisper. It is good at this time in your teaching, to give them some practical ways to stop what is happening, or how to get away from the situation. Your child needs some help in this, they are young. Remember, real life is a training ground for the little ones.

#### Traveling the Road to Heaven

This is a good vacation devotion if you are near a small mountain where you can go on a hike or a climb. The children love this kind of family activity. This is teaching "by the way," according to Deuteronomy 6. In the morning, as you begin your vacation day, find several verses in the Bible that describe the Christian life as a journey, a race, and something hard. Hebrews 12 is a good one, as well as Matthew 7. After you have taught the principle to them, explain the plan for a family hike up the mountain. They will be very excited. Let them know ahead of time, that we want to learn some practical lessons about the Christian life while we climb the mountain. As you begin, tell the children that heaven is at the top of the mountain. The beautiful view at the top is a great reward. There are many relating points all along the way. I will leave them up to your imagination. You will meet other people who made it to the top. They will encourage you to keep going, even though you are tired, because the sight at the top is worth it. You will meet people who stopped short of the top, because it was too much for them. They will give you expressions that will be very teachable. When you get to the top (and you will get to the top, won't you?) spend a good amount of time gazing out over the beautiful sights, and talking about heaven.

#### The Use of the Rod

After you have gathered the family and had a time of singing, when the children are expecting you to open your Bible and teach, rise up and leave the room for a moment. Return to the room with a rope, and whatever you use to spank your children. Grab one of the smaller children and tie them up really well on the floor, so they cannot get up. Have them try a few times. Open your Bible to Proverbs. "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child, but the rod of correction will drive it far from him." Take some time and talk about the results of this foolishness, and the misery of needing to be free from it. All the children will relate to this misery if they are honest. Describe the freedom that comes when the foolishness is driven away and move into a teaching on the blessings of getting a spanking. This may seem odd to you at first, but you can train the children to love and appreciate a spanking and the benefits that come from them. This is the time to do it, when no one is getting one. You can enlighten their heart's understanding so that they will begin to perceive when they need correction. Hold the rod in your hand so they can see it while you speak of it in positive tones. Emphasize that other forms of punishment will not do what a spanking will do. List some of them, such as strong words, standing in the corner, etc. If you want to really end on a meaningful note for the one that is still tied up, ask the children how do we get this child free from his present bondage. They will probably say spank him. This will get a laugh out of most except the one on the floor.

# A Spiritual Exercise

GOD'S FAST

by Byron Benefield

o we really want revival? Do we want our prayers answered? Do we understand or know what fasting is or is about? Are we doers of The Word or just hearers only? Or do we just boast about what we don't do when we fast? Look at this scripture and you will find the answers to these questions. You will see what a true fast is. And you will see how to have revival, which is the manifest presence of God in our lives, and when it comes, it will be undeniable that God is with us.

#### Isaiah 58:1-14

Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet they seek me daily, and delight to know my ways, as a nation that did righteousness, and forsook not the ordinance of their God: they ask of me the ordinances of justice; they take delight in approaching to God.

Wherefore have we fasted, say they, and thou seest not? Wherefore

have we afflicted our soul, and thou takest no knowledge?

Behold, in the day of your fast ye find pleasure, and exact all your labours. (They do not have the spirit of fasting—they continue on with daily duties.) Behold, ye fast for strife and debate, and to smite with the fist of wickedness: ye shall not fast as ye do this day, to make your voice to be heard on high. (They boast and compare themselves among themselves and say, "Look at me. I'm more spiritual then you are.")

Is it such a fast that I have chosen? A day for a man to afflict his soul? Is it to bow down his head as a bulrush, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? Wilt thou call this a fast, and an acceptable day to the Lord?" (The question has an obvious tone-No!! Obedience is better than sacrifice! His fast that He chooses will tear down evil strongholds, take away heavy burdens [His yoke is easy and burden is light], set those that are bound free, and break every yoke that is pulling them in the wrong direction.)

Is not this the fast that I have chosen? To loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? (See vs. 7-14 for the answer. This is the fast! It's what we do, not what we don't do, that is considered a fast acceptable to God. We must obey Him! He said whatever we do to others we have done it to him.)

Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? When thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?

Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy rereward. (Then our light will shine and people will see Christ in us, see our good works and glorify God. His Spirit will follow with signs and wonders confirming His Word and guarding us and His ministry with His glory.)

**Then** shalt thou call, and the LORD shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am. (He will answer our prayers). If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity;

continued on page 26

18..., Then

IF ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, THEN ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people.

IF thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, THEN all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee.

IF ye forsake the LORD, and serve strange gods, THEN he will turn and do you hurt, and consume you, after that he hath done you good.

...Solomon, know the God of your father, serve him with a perfect heart. IF thou seek him, THEN he will be found of thee, but IF thou forsake him, THEN he will cast thee off forever.

IF my people, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; THEN will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

IF I regard iniquity in my heart, THEN the Lord will not hear me.

MY SON, IF thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; IF thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; Yea, IF thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; IF thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures, THEN shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.

IF a man keep my sayings, THEN he shall never taste of death.

IF a man love me, he will keep my words: THEN my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

IF a man abide not in me, THEN he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and they are burned. IF ye abide in me and my words abide in you, THEN ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. IF ye keep my commandments, THEN ye shall abide in my love. IF ye do whatsoever I command you, THEN ye are my friends. For IF ye live after the flesh, THEN ye shall die: but IF ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, THEN ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

IF any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, THEN, let him be Anathema, Maranatha.

IF ye walk in the Spirit, THEN ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. IF ye be led of the Spirit, THEN ye are not under the law.

IF ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, THEN he will present you holy and unblameable and unreproveable in his sight.

IF a man therefore purge himself from iniquity, THEN he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.

IF we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end, THEN we are Christ's house. IF we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end, THEN we are made partakers of Christ.

IF we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, THEN there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,

IF we walk in the light, as he is in the light, THEN we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. IF we confess our sins, THEN he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Beloved, IF our heart condemn us not, THEN have we confidence toward God. And THEN whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

IF we love one another, THEN God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.

IF therefore thou shalt not watch, THEN I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

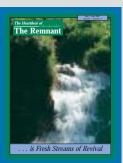
Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: IF any man, hear my voice, and open the door, THEN I will come in to him, and will sup with him and he with me.

IF any man shall add unto these things, THEN God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book, And IF any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, THEN God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

# Charity Gospel Tape Ministry & The Heartbeat of The Remnant *Quarterly Financial Report*

January - March 2001





Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Below, you will find the quarterly financial records for the Tape Ministry and the Remnant. The bottom line needs a little explanation. There are two reasons for the large negative balance. First of all, we have changed the way we produce the Godly Home Series. The continued increase in demand for this set has been a real challenge to the workers that produce the tapes. Because of this, we sought for other ways to meet this rising demand. We found a place that would produce them for us at just a little more than what we have to pay. However, we must order them a thousand sets at a time. Then we must also pay for them when we receive them. This was a large expense all at once. The second reason has to do with the tape set albums. We ordered a very large quantity of these, at a sizeable discount. This also had to be paid up front, thus, another large negative balance.

We are committed to keep these ministries functioning on a freewill basis. This has its challenges at times, I'm sure you can imagine. We get so many positive, grateful responses from people who have been touched and changed, who didn't have the money, that the other approach is not an option. To those who do help us financially, Thank You again. Your labors are not in vain. In my twentyfive years of ministry I have never seen a more fruitful ministry than the tapes, and the other ministries that have flowed out from the tapes. The letters never cease to slow down. Letters of beautiful testimony, "God changed my life through a tape", or, "God changed my life through an article that I received."

# God Bless You All!

--Bro. Denny

#### 01/01/01 Beginning Balance .....\$1,294.00

#### Receipts

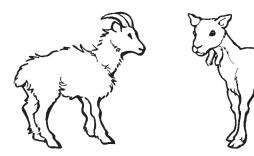
Tape Ministry Donations\$36	6,875.33
Remnant Subscription Donations\$4	1,753.37
Total Receipts\$47	,628.70

#### Disbursements

UPS & Postage	\$6 131 16				
-					
Tapes & Albums	\$41,107.78				
Computer/Equipment/Supplies .	\$1,696.16				
Equipment Maint & Repairs	\$1,055.36				
Electricity	\$306.22				
Telephone	\$940.93				
Miscellaneous					
Payroll Expense	\$5,675.00				
Books & Catalogs	\$519.00				
Remnant Publishing & Mailing .	\$10,906.56				
Total Disbursements	\$69,438.47				
03/31/00 Ending Balance\$26,515.77					
Difference	-\$27 809 77				

# Children or Kids

by Lance Hollingshead





In an age when the youth of the world are being exploited and targeted, abused and neglected, I would like to challenge us to speak as the oracles of God. (I Peter 4:11) Our Lord Jesus said He did nothing except that which He saw the Father do. (John 5)

I read on a cover of *LIFE Magazine* recently, "<u>Kids Rule</u>, Women Lead the Way." Isaiah 3:12 says, "As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them." Isaiah 3:4-5 seems to point towards these days in which we live.

The challenge—don't use the world's terminology of kids to demean our children.

"Who cares?" you might say. "It's not that big of a deal." "Everyone says it."

We, as God's church, should respond, "Does God care? He's not just everyone. What does the Word of God say?" Does God call children, or your child, a kid?

There's only one place to look! Maybe we have been looking in the wrong places and listening to the wrong everyone.

Please bear with me as I share what I have discovered.

Does God care? Are words a big deal with God?

Genesis, the first chapter, records that "God said," (creating life) eleven times, and seven of those times after "He said," He saw what He created with His words was good. In eleven of thirty-one verses God said (used) words to produce life that was good.

God said to Adam in Genesis 2:16-17, "Do not," but Adam did, and death was the result. The psalmist confirms the creative power of God's words.

"He spake and it was done, he commanded, and it stood fast." (Psalm 33:9)

"Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it will eat the fruit thereof." (Proverbs 18:21)

Jesus declares in the Gospels we will give an account for every idle word. The Greek renders *idle* as: inactive, lazy, useless.

What God said (created) in Genesis 1, He then saw that it was good. We might say kids, but we are speaking an inactive word and we see an unfruitful result. We have cheapened their value, and the results are clearly seen.

So, does God care? What the Word shows!

Remember, we are looking at this from God's use of words and how He chose to apply them as the loving Creator. We are not listening to the counsel of the ungodly.

- Definition of kid (Strongs *Concordance*): Shaggy, he goat, by analogy a fawn, devil, satyr, hairy.
- Kid is used in 43 verses. Kids • is used in 11 verses.
- The word that *kid* comes from means: to storm, shiver, fear, she goat, hardened, impudent
- The use of a kid was for a sacrificial offering to pay for sin, and as an object of food to eat.

Ungers Bible Dictionary points out: Goats were less chosen because they were of a lesser value than sheep. Comparatively worthless, when compared in Matthew 25:32-33.

Now let's look at Child and Children.

- *Child*, in the Hebrew: a boy, a lad, become pregnant, offspring, fruit, son, a son as a builder of the family name. A boy or girl from the age of infancy to adolescence.
- Greek: a child of either sex. half grown boy or girl, immature.

So, according to the Word of God, by which He spoke the worlds into existence, a kid is a

goat used as payment for sin, and a source of food. A *child* is something born, the offspring of the act of knowing, the age of infancy to adolescence, a boy or girl.

So, according to God's Word, when we call our children kids, we are speaking an inactive. useless word.

#### The Church's Role

God, the Holy One of Israel, put the Jewish nation in the midst of all the heathen nations as the bearer of truth, the plumbline for all that is right and good. As the church, we are called to the same.

May we as the church, members of Christ, strive to be less friendly with the world and be the friends of God.  $\Box$ 

continued from page 21, God's Fast by Byron Benefield

And **if** thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noonday:

And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.

many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.

If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honourable; and shalt honour him. not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words:

to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken *it.* (Then we will see revival!!)

I pray that God will burn this word into our hearts, cause us to walk in obedience, and revive us from our sleep, and visit us with His presence.  $\Box$ 

And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou **Then** shalt thou delight unyour ... shalt raise up the foundations of the LORD; and 1 will cause thee Moss Point, M

The Heartbeat of The Remnant • May/June 2001



# Ministering to Grieving Saints

by Andrew Weaver

e live in a world where death and grief are inevitable realities, and so we are all confronted at times with the helpless feeling of wanting to comfort those who are grieving, but being unsure of the right way to do it. Naturally, those Christians who have passed through this valley of sorrow are the ones best qualified to teach us how to 'weep with those that weep'. Therefore this article is simply a compilation of the insights shared by different believers who have been comforted by the compassion of their brothers and sisters. My sincere thanks to each person who was willing to look back at their grief and share this wisdom so that we may all learn how to more effectively comfort the brokenhearted. This information was drawn from a sister's meeting held at Charity Christian Fellowship where the subject of comforting the bereaved was addressed.

It is important to understand that grieving is a deeply personal experience, and different people will express grief in different ways. Naturally then, there is no ironclad set of rules for comforting those in grief. There are, however, some basic principles we can learn about grief that will help us avoid unknowingly adding to a grieving believer's pain.

Most people described an initial period of numbness and shock after the death of a loved one. The mind is overwhelmed with one consuming thought, and it seems impossible to think of anything else. During this time, the simple presence of those who were close to them was the most meaningful comfort. Crowds of people would be overwhelming at this point, but the presence of close friends can be a healing comfort. If you have already been close to someone before they faced tragedy, at least offer your presence, prayers, and love during their grief.

Avoid asking questions during this period, especially about the death or tragedy they are dealing with. Many people found that a simple question seemed impossible to answer because the mind was frozen by shock. In addition, asking questions about details of the death force the grieving person to relive the emotions of those moments. If you are comforting a grieving saint in the first hours or days of grief, be sensitive about the turmoil in their mind. Instead of asking questions, offer simple, positive statements of love and compassion. Be available to do everyday, practical things for the grieving believer. Maybe someone needs to take responsibility for chores, or cleaning the house, or providing a meal, or simply loving and caring for the younger children.

Be sensitive to the desires of those who are grieving. Maybe they want to deal with their grief by surrounding themselves with people. On the other hand, some people prefer to grieve alone. Maybe the person wants to talk about memories of the person who has passed on, or maybe they prefer not to at certain times. Find out what your grieving brother or sister wants, and respect those desires.

If the person you wish to comfort has lost his/her spouse, be aware of the pain and loss they are feeling, and be sensitive to that when you are in their presence. This is not a time for you and your spouse to openly express your affection for each other. The person in grief does not need that painful reminder that he/she no longer has the option of reaching for a spouse's loving hand, nor giving or receiving affection.

After the initial shock there is often an extended period of painful reality when the finality of death settles in for the grieving person. Daily life must somehow continue, even though the magnitude of their loss is fully beginning to dawn on them, and life seems more difficult than ever. Furthermore, the words of comfort and the encouraging cards are beginning to dwindle as most people move on with their own lives and slowly forget the silent grief still being experienced by someone they love. Your continued love and encouragement are very important, especially on occasions such as the birthday of the deceased person, or the first anniversary with one partner gone. It will take a deliberate choice and effort on your part to provide the needed comfort after other people have begun to forget, but your compassion will be more needed than ever.

There is no need to try to explain God's purposes to those in grief. If you want to offer words of comfort, share something simple from your heart. No one knows the heart of God anyway, and our surmising does no good. For example, parents who have lost young children are sometimes 'comforted' with the words, "Maybe the Lord knew that he/she would grow up to be an unbeliever, and so it's His mercy to take them now." Again, we do not know the mind of God, so we have no idea whether this is true, but such words offer no comfort to the grieving parents. They have no memories of an unbeliever, but rather of a sweet, innocent child. A simple "I love you and am praying for you" means much more than speculation about God's possible purposes and will.

Many people also found it difficult when they were reminded that there was now a better reason to desire heaven since they had a loved one there. While this is true, a believer's true motivation for desiring heaven is the hope of seeing the Lord Jesus Christ face to face. Don't make a grieving person feel guilty by suggesting that heaven's greatest attraction is the presence of a spouse, child, or friend.

Again, we must remember that every situation is unique, and different people respond to grief differently. Don't apply the suggestions in this article as one-size-fits-all rules. Just be real in sharing the grief of those whom you love, and always seek to have the mind of Christ, Who was sent to bind up the brokenhearted.  $\Box$ 

> "After the initial shock there is often an extended period of painful reality when the finality of death settles in for the grieving person... the words of comfort and the encouraging cards are beginning to dwindle as most people move on with their own lives and slowly forget the silent grief still being experienced by someone they love. Your continued love and encouragement are very important..."

Flcome to The Blessing Corner. We never get tired of hearing the testimonies of God's many folded grace working in our many folded lives.

As we por ing, and emerge ' to the As we pondered Shannon's life, we marvel at the mercy of God, drawing, convicting, wooing, and even spanking, to bring a sinner to himself. There are some precious principles that emerge from this life that was reclaimed by God. Consider just a few of them as an introduction to the reading of this testimony.

The doctrine of salvation is beautifully defined in her experience. Salvation is more than a reformation, or making a few changes. She had to have a pure heart, a new heart, and it seems God would not let her rest until that heart was purified by faith, through repentance. Praise the Lord.

Her conscience was working quite well, even before she received much light. The few times of going to a nominal church service, was enough to bring her under conviction, because of the working of the conscience. Oh the conscience, what a delicate instrument it is. It can be very tormenting at times, but, how precious is the pricking of the conscience. It is specially designed by our creator who made us in his image.

The value of one little child, even if it was a special child, is seen here also. I wonder how many times Shannon has pondered how different this story would have read, if she would have followed the doctor's advice, and aborted the child. But now, she has a sweet little girl, who loves Jesus.

# FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT!

by Shannon Hamby

am a young single mother that God has pulled from the black depths of sin into glorious union with Him. I had been involved in witchcraft and other things since I was thirteen. When I was fifteen years old, I ran away from home and lived "on the streets". I did a lot of drugs, and other things I

don't even want to mention. Even then, the Lord had His hand over me.

One morning, I woke up, and decided, no more smoking, no more drinking, and no more drugs. That was the end of all those things! I now know it was God working in me, and changing my desires. Before much

longer, I moved back home and tried to reconcile with my mother. That was a long hard road for both of us, but, praise the Lord, we're the best of friends, a real mother-daughter team.

A few weeks later, we discovered I was pregnant. Can you imagine what this did to my dear mother? Here was her young daughter, sixteen years old, just come home, and now she is pregnant. It was over a month before we could be in the same room together. I think what helped to bring us close together again was when my doctor told me that my baby would be born with Downs Syndrome. As I look through my journals, I am surprised to remember (and even more surprised that I forgot) that this was when I gave myself completely to God.

All throughout my pregnancy, I determined, to give my baby the best start possible. I started with my health, and quit drinking soft drinks, tea, and quit eating junk food, and was very picky about what went into my body. (Now that reminds me of when Jesus taught that it isn't what goes into your body, but what comes out of your heart that will defile you!), yet, I still didn't feel "clean" and "pure" enough. Both consciously- and unconsciously, that became my desire. I denounced witchcraft and the other things I was involved in spiritually .I was determined to be perfectly "neutral". I cut off from all my peers. I stopped watching television and became strict on what I allowed myself to read, fearing that these things could somehow influence my baby. Remember, I had never received any teaching on any of these subjects .My family very occasionally went to a church service at a Baptist, or Methodist church, and professed to be Christians, but to me there was nothing there. All these things I was doing out of my desire for purity, which I now know to have been God drawing me to Himself.

One day as I was putting away some things I had received for the baby, I was mourning over the news I had received, that the baby would be Downs. In my sadness, I reached over and put a tape into the stereo. I expected the kind of music I had been listening to, which while it was a wonderful improvement over what I had been listening to earlier, it still was not what I would feel free to listen to now (does anyone remember Janis Joplin?). Imagine my surprise when a gospel song poured forth about Jesus. The song was about

the people he had healed and loved, as they were standing at the cross watching Him die. The song went on to say how He still loved them, and had mercy for them. The tape went on to a song about stepping onto the "ship of Zion" and leaving all our troubles and triumphs behind, and being safe with Jesus the captain.

How perfect is God's planning and His timing! By the end of the song, I was on my knees, crying and begging the Lord to help me. He was showing me exactly where I was. After all my striving for purity, still, I was only fit for the pits of hell. I gave myself to Him, body, mind and soul, and begged Him, even thought I was so rotten, to have mercy on me, forgive me, and help me. He accepted. He put His loving arms around me, and overwhelmed me with the most amazing peace. I felt so relieved of burdens that I hadn't even realized I was carrying, and I finally felt that purity I had been longing for! That day, I stopped worrying about my baby, and fully trusted God the way an infant trusts its mother: never dreaming of not trusting!

A few days later, I went to a doctors appointment, that I had made. They gently encouraged me to abort my baby, reminding me what life would be for both of us. After making it clear to them that that was not to be even mentioned again, they wanted to do more conclusive tests. Guess what!!! NO Down's Syndrome evidence! Of course, there was still a possibility of having a DS baby, but it was a smaller chance, according to their tests. I truly did not care either way, it was in God's hands, and He knew best!

I began reading the Bible, and OH!, what exciting treasures I found there! I still remember the first time I read Matthew 7:7, "Ask, and it shall be given you". What incredible joy filled me! And how sobering it was to read John Chapter 15 for the first time, and realize how serious it is! That was over 5 years ago, and many things have changed in my life, but God is still the same and always will be, and I'm so glad. I am still abiding in Him, and enjoying the privilege of serving Him.

Dear readers, how is it with you? Have you had a clear conversion? Do you know without a doubt, that you have passed from death unto life? That pure heart that Shannon was longing for was a heart that has been crucified with Christ, and born anew by the power of God. We all must have a clean and a pure heart. This is what salvation is. The song writer said it this way, "amazing grace, 'tis heaven below to feel the blood applied". Let us all examine ourselves as Paul admonishes us to do in II Corinthians.

Shannon is teaching her little girl, Rena Olivia, at home. To help support her family she takes in sewing. If anyone needs to have some sewing done you can call her at (336) 694-5341.

-- The editors





# The Wonderful Privilege of Gospel-Spreading

by Daniel Kenaston

*I*, *Paul*, *am a prisoner of Christ Jesus because of my* continued preaching to you Gentiles. As you may already know, God has given me this special ministry of announcing his favor to the Gentiles....God did not reveal this favor to previous generations, but now he has revealed it by his Holy Spirit through the apostles and prophets. And here is the secret plan: The Gentiles have an equal share with the Jews in all the riches inherited by God's children....By God's grace and mighty power, I have been given the wonderful privilege of serving him through spreading this Good News. Just think! Though I didn't deserve it. and though I am inferior to all other Christians, I was chosen for this special joy of telling the Gentiles about the unending treasures available to them in Christ!! Ephesians 3:1-8 (Konkomba-to-English paraphrase)

So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and outsiders. You are citizens along with all of us as God's holy people. You are members of God's family and are built with us, like a house, upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets. And the cornerstone of this spiritual house is Christ Jesus himself. Ephesians 2:19-20 (Konkomba-to-English paraphrase)

reetings, dear friends and members of God's own family! I would like to share with you in these lines a little of what God has been speaking to us recently during an extended study of the book of Ephesians. We have been spending much of our Bible reading time lately focused on repetitively reading this book, as we are studying it along with the other leaders in the Konkomba churches here. I have found that many portions of scripture have come alive in a new way now that I'm reading them in a missionary setting, and the verses above are no exception. Through study of these verses on my own in English and with Matthew (my translator) in the Konkomba Bible, a beautiful truth has unfolded to our view and has inspired us tremendously in our work here. I have taken the liberty to paraphrase the above verses (some of which is the Konkomba bible translated back into English,) in order to make very simple and clear 'The wonderful privilege of gospel-spreading' in the way that is has captivated us in the last weeks.

In order to help you to see this from the perspective that I have viewed it from, I would like to recount to you a scene which Christy and I observed several times at the American Embassy in Accra, which is the capital city of Ghana. We spent several days there in January working through the paperwork to get a passport, etc. for our little Abigail, and were struck by this sight every time we saw it. God connected this scene with the verses above and has deeply impressed its truth upon our hearts.

# Impressions from an American Embassy

The American Embassy in Accra is not only the location where American citizens go to do their government paperwork, renew passports, etc. It is a little slice of America, and never in my life have I felt the powers of being a citizen like I did there. Upon showing an American passport to the guards posted at the door, we were treated almost like royalty! We were taken around the lines, through the tightly barred doors, and in a matter of 2 minutes were in an air-conditioned office face to face with someone who could answer our questions. I must say that it felt a bit odd to walk by all of the lines of hopeful people, many of which had probably been waiting in the hot sun for hours before I arrived. I felt the longing, almost jealous eyes of others as I was taken to the front of the lines, but I am an American citizen, and that citizenship brings with it certain rights and blessings, though I was a bit uncomfortable accepting them.

The American Embassy is also the place where every Ghanaian who would like to travel or emigrate to the United States comes to make his or her request. Though we may consider it a sad attraction, many people in poorer countries view America with longing, and they would give almost anything to get there, because in their own words, "America is heaven"! We know that American makes a mighty poor heaven, but if you look at it from their perspective and compare it with their daily fight for survival, it surely does seem like a paradise indeed! And so.... every day the embassy is literally flooded with people desiring a visa to travel to the U.S. The embassy becomes the gathering point for the multiplied lifetimes of hopes and dreams of the thousands who throng her doors seeking entrance and a positive answer to their request. It was these masses that we met every time we entered the embassy compound, waiting in long lines for a chance to speak to one of the embassy staff. The majority of them held as their deepest desire only one thing, namely CITIZEN-SHIP! and all of the blessings that come with it. It is the unenviable job of the embassy officials to pick and choose the few out of the many who will be allowed to set foot on American land, and explain to the hundreds who remain why they cannot be included. I found myself pitying both the waiting multitude and the staff who would have to turn them away one by one.

Now, with this in mind, think with me what it would be like if one day, on a whim of benevolence, the American Government told the ambassador to make immediate citizenship available to everyone who was waiting at the embassy at that time. Imagine what a marvelous, joyful assignment that would be!! Oh, the thrill to come down to the waiting crowd and be the one to announce to them the good news that they are also included in the rights and privileges of American citizens! Oh, the joy to take them by the hand and lead them through that door that they had looked at with such longing, marked 'citizens only', to go through it and into the experience of being a fellow-citizen of the United States! Would it be a chore? No, indeed! It would be considered an honor and I can imagine the officials fighting over who should get the opportunity after so many days of telling people 'no'.

# Honored Ambassadors of the Open Door in Jesus

Well, my dear fellow believers, we have been given just that job, only it is made even grander by the wonderful kingdom into which we have been given the chance to welcome anyone and everyone who is willing! Do you see it? There are many ways of viewing what it means to become a Christian, but one possibility focuses on the aspect of taking up a citizenship in God's family, and it is clear that this is Paul's focus as he writes to his Gentile audience. Then, couple that with the role we Christians have been given as ambassadors from God's kingdom to the world, and you have exactly the scenario that I described above! We have been given the 'special joy', as Paul calls it, of announcing to the world the fact that there is room in the citizenship of God's kingdom for them!

This extremely positive outlook on our responsibility to share Christ's life-changing message with the world has been very stimulating for me to ponder over. It is obvious that Paul saw himself as a blessed man to be the one to herald the message that the gentiles are also included in Christ's sacrifice and the forgiveness that it purchased. Just look back to the words he uses to describe his 'duty'. The fulfillment of this responsibility, I beg you to remember, had already sent him to prison and would eventually cost him his life! But hear his words: 'special ministry, wonderful privilege, special joy'. This was how he viewed his life work.

What a challenge this has been to my own heart! I must confess that it has convicted me, showing me how far below this wonderful example my own outlook is at times. Sometimes amid the daily difficulties of ministering in a foreign land and feeling with our souls the ups and downs of the conflict that is being fought over the souls of our area, our attitude is more one of being a soldier and doing what we know is our God-given duty to do. It is true that it's better to 'soldier on' than to give up, but our desire is to so fully understand our ministry and its possible impact on living souls that we truly and always see our work here as a ministry given to us by God as a special favor! At times it is a duty, but it is only a duty when we do not grasp the honor that it is! Focusing on the wonderful message that we carry to the Konkombas has been a refreshing balm to our spirits which sometimes grow weary of the deeplyentrenched wickedness all around us. We truly are spreading the Gospel, which means Good News!

My hope is that maybe these thoughts will serve as a source of inspiration to some of you who are currently inactive as envoys of God's great kingdom. It may be that you have lost sight of your own wonderful position as a member of God's family, or possibly you are weary of doing your duty without seeing immediate fruit. My dear brothers and sisters, let's lift our eyes first of all to the wonderful place we have as former outcasts now included as citizens with full rights in the heavenly kingdom! "Born of the spirit with life from above, into God's family divine; Justified fully through Calvary's love, Oh, what a standing is mine"! Then, with our hearts full of praise and awe at what we have received, let us go out as the love slaves of this our dear master, to carry with excitement the message that the door of salvation and sonship is open to all.

# <u>Urgently Needed:</u> Willing Ambassadors

If you will allow me, I feel I must also try to transfer a portion of the burden that these verses have reconfirmed in my heart before I leave you for this month. As I have stated before, my heart pulsed with joy at the thought of the privilege that Paul had, namely, to be the one to announce to a group of people that they are included in God's plan of redemption and can also be equal partakers at the table of blessings available in Christ. But my mind quickly continued its path to the fact that though the Apostle of the Gentiles began his work almost 2000 years ago, that message of inclusion in God's redemptive plan has yet to reach many thousands of anxious human souls. To put it into the terminology we have been using here, the lines outside of God's Embassy are still long, and filled with many hungry souls who wonder if maybe there would be room in God's Kingdom for them. There are also thousands of towns and villages where the multitudes still wander in a confused mass toward hell, 'without God and without *hope'*! In many lands, the majority still spend their lives groping for some glimmer of hope, some assurance of having appeased the gods and thereby securing a positive reception into the next life.

Oh, the misery and darkness of a Christless existence! Oh, the fear of an unknown future!

But my dear fellow Christians, all this while the door of mercy is still open wide, and while Christ's blood still atones for sin! These people are included in the new covenant of mercy purchased by Christ's blood, but because they don't know it, they live their lives under the old curse of sin. Do we not have, fellow redeemed ones, a sacred, honored duty to fulfil? Should not these, for whom the way was opened to freedom and full citizenship by the same blood that purchased us, be informed of this marvelous gift, so that they at least have a chance to accept or reject it? Dear friends, let us hasten the gospel message on its way, so that it can complete its path to every ear and heart on earth, for when it does, and only when it does, will we have completed the mandate given to us in Matthew 28. Let us pick up our special privilege as communicators of God's blessing, and in whatever role we fill, do our part to ensure that the wonderful message that Jesus still saves arrives at earth's remotest bounds.

I recognize that these lines did little in the way of updating you on the work here, but I trust that this insight into some of what God has been teaching us over the last weeks will encourage your hearts and will challenge you as it has us. We remain firmly committed to doing our part here to see that the Konkomba tribe becomes fully aware of all that is available in Christ, and know that they are included in its provisions. A deeply felt thank you to each one of you who continue to support the work of God in this part of the world. May your gift of time, prayer, or money be a seed that will bear fruit in the future. We know that many of you are deeply committed to this work along with us and we really appreciate your bearing this burden with us in a variety of ways. May God bless and strengthen you!

Undeserving yet privileged to serve, Daniel, Christy, and Abigail Kenaston



Daniel Kenaston and Matthew (the translator/language teacher), prepared for gospel-spreading!



# Precious Letters from Our Readers



where the second second

- A meaningful lesson in family devotions that you can pass on to other fathers.
- A testimony for *The Blessing Corner* where you found God's blessing in some area of obedience.
- A question that can be answered to the edification of all.
- An area of spiritual growth, obtained by one of the exercises suggested in the magazine.
- A word of encouragement or counsel about *The Remnant*, or any section of it.

Dear Remnant,

Just finished reading and enjoying the Jan./Feb. issue. Here is a challenge for you or perhaps someone who reads the Remnant. Your ministry has reached so many, even across the ocean now and it is truly a blessing. Yet there is a mission field whose fields are white unto harvest and is largely left to itself by the "church." That field is the divorced. There are thousands of them. Who will tell them the truth? The Africans need the truth of the gospel of Christ, yes, but the American divorced need the truth of remarriage after divorce as well.

#### A Reader

\* \* \* \* \* \*

Dear Editors,

Thank you so much for the revised, version of the Remnant. Our whole family has greatly been enjoying it from cover to cover.

The Home Histories are such an inspiration and enhance our vision for a godly home, to the glory of God. And oh, the articles for the sisters, my Father knew just the perfect time to send them my way. How loudly they spoke and how effectively they wrought spiritual victory in my ever-so-weak flesh. Blessed by the God of heaven, for His word is sharper than a twoedged sword.

Do continue to toil on in making the publication an inspiration and a glory to God. May the Lord fill you with all wisdom, knowledge, and understanding in the grace, truth, and power of Jesus Christ our blessed Redeemer.

A Sister

\*\*\*\*

Dear Remnant,

I've been wanting to write and tell you what a blessing your magazine has been, I've absolutely loved the coversthey are so inspiring I've wanted to frame them, yet I don't want to destroy the magazine in order to do that. I keep referring back to the different articles that have blessed me so. I love the home-histories, the sharpened words, book reviews, blessing corner, the articles that have been condensed from messages-well, I just love everything! The photo on the first one entitled "The Way of the Cross," I find myself so drawn to that picture – I would especially love to have a print of it to hang in my living room. My thought every time I see it is, "I want to follow Jesus."

Delight Sporre Blackduck, MN Oh God, please rend the heavens Come down, visit earth with your fire Let mountains melt in T hy presence Give saints their holy desires Make known your name to the enemies Draw trembling people to your side Oh, the blessings T hou hast prepared us T hose who love you, who wait, and who cry.

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