

The Heartbeat of
The Remnant

November / December 2003 Volume 9 Number 6



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The Heartbeat of
The Remnant

Publisher

Charity Christian Fellowship
Publication Office
 400 W Main St Ste 1
 Ephrata, PA 17522

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Subscription is available at no cost upon request. However, there is considerable cost involved in printing *The Remnant*. It is financially supported by the gifts of God's people as they 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*, 400 W Main St Ste 1, Ephrata, PA 17522 U.S.A. You can call 1-800-227-7902 or (717) 721-7775.

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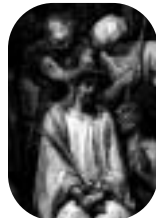
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Matthew Henry's

H o m e L i f e

by Denny Kenaston

*And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children,
and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way,
and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.
Deut. 6:7*

For three hundred years, Matthew Henry's Commentary of the Bible has been a household word among English-speaking Christians. Three hundred years is a long time. During these years, many commentaries have come and gone, but the deep spiritual comments of Matthew Henry continue to draw the attention of serious Christians worldwide. It is hard to say how many hands have reached for his commentaries over this long space of time,

but I don't think it would be an exaggeration to say it's in the millions. We want to pull back the curtain and gaze into the home life that produced a heart, a life, and this famous commentary. It has come to us through the diligent labors of a father, who took the above Bible verse very seriously.

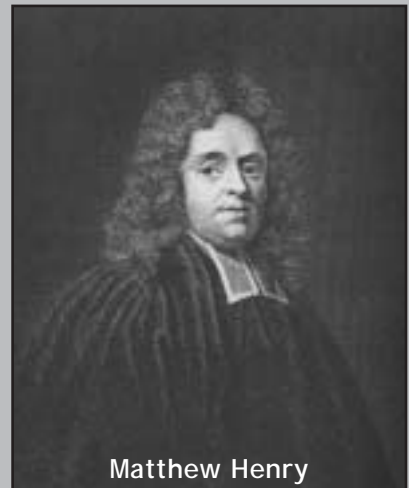
I have received several letters alerting me to the rich treasures hidden in the lives of Phillip and Matthew Henry; however, I was not able to



Phillip Henry



Katherine Henry



Matthew Henry

find a source to glean from until now. Banner of Truth Trust has provided an extensive reprint of both lives, and it has been an excellent resource. I have not been disappointed as I studied. In fact, the deeper I studied into these two lives, the more it became evident to me: there is a giant of a man behind the commentator Matthew Henry. Yea, the more I read, the more difficult it is to determine who the commentator is. Praise to God whose infinite wisdom is past finding out.

Phillip Henry's Heritage

The more I study the households of Zion, the clearer it is to me, that God prepares choice servants through the generations that precede them. Matthew Henry is no exception. Phillip Henry was born in 1631 in Westminster, England, to Christian parents with a clear testimony of godliness. His father, John Henry, was servant to the king, and had several different responsibilities. It seems that Phillip's mother Magdalene, had the greatest spiritual influence on him, though she died when he was only fourteen years old. She separated herself from the vanities of the king's court, though she lived in the midst of them, and gave herself to the training of her children. She led them in prayers and catechized them daily in the Scriptures, as Lois and Eunice did to Timothy. As her young son showed deep interest in spiritual things, she dedicated him to God for the service of a higher King.

Young Phillip's Spiritual Pursuits

A discerning mother, she saw clearly the budding desires of her gifted son, and was quick to give direction to his studies. It seems in those days, parents were not afraid to guide the young ones out of childhood and into adulthood at an early age. Magdalene ordered a rigorous schedule of spiritual pursuits for her son, though he was only ten years old. I should hasten to note, that Phillip was ravenous to keep her schedule because of his holy desires for wisdom. To him, "Wisdom was the principle thing," and he sought it with earnest at an early age. Lord, lift our eyes higher, that we may see what can be done with a child when you start young. I believe a mother's faithful teaching of Scripture, God also helping her, created these holy desires. Let's look more deeply into the rigors that Phillip willingly submitted to from age ten to fifteen.

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➤ Early Morning Lectures

His mother got special permission for him to attend a lecture of Bible expositions, each morning at 7:00 A.M. Several godly men held these lectures seven days a week.

His mother expected him to take notes on all he heard; and, of course, he went off to school after this.

➤ Thursday Night Lectures

Every Thursday evening, his mother took him to another church to sit under the ministry of other godly men. These were the

days when nonconformists were rising up and proclaiming reform in the state church. It seems evident that Mrs. Henry felt led to put her son under many of their influences.

➤ **Sabbath Day Preaching**

The family attended two different churches each Lord's Day. One in the morning and another in the early evening. Again, the purpose for this was to sit under the teachings of godly men. These different churches covered a wide range of Protestant theology. One was a Presbyterian, one an Independent, and another, Episcopal.

➤ **Monthly Fast Days**

Young Phillip kept the fast days that were held each month at his home church. He sat on the pulpit steps with joy, recording every sermon of the day. These fast days were very rigorous. They started at 8 AM, and finished at 4 PM. There were times of singing, times of preaching, and times of open confession and prayer. We can get a glimpse into their affect on him by an entry in his diary. He states, "My soul rejoiceth and is glad at the remembrance of those days. I loved it, and loved the messages, and felt sweet meltings of soul in prayer and confession of my sins."

➤ **Writing Sermons**

Phillip's mother trained him to copy the sermons as he was listening. He practiced this discipline from an early age, and continued until a few years before his death, when his eyesight dimmed. Let me explain what the term "writing sermons" means. He learned to write extensive comments about all the main points of the sermon so he could then rehearse them to his mother and father. This practice taught him to meditate and communicate truth at an early age. It is no wonder, that he became a well-known expository preacher.

You might be tempted to think, "Poor child, he missed his childhood"; however, consider Phillip's own testimony as he reflected on

those powerful years in his life. "I was kept from the common sins of other youths, such as cursing, swearing, Sabbath breaking and the like. In addition, it prevailed, through grace, to bring me effectually to God." As I studied, it seems to me that he came to a saving knowledge of Christ at age thirteen, however, as the custom was in those days, it was not acknowledged until he took communion at age sixteen, after several weeks of very challenging instruction with his minister. His own testimony at the end of this six-year period of seeking God is very convincing. "I confessed my sins before God, original and actual, judging and condemning myself for them. I cast all my transgressions away from me, receiving Christ Jesus the Lord as the Lord my righteousness. I devoted and dedicated my whole self, absolutely and unreservedly, to His fear and service." May God give us more conversions like this one! It would be the joy of any parents' heart: however, we must remember, this comes from guiding them toward spiritual pursuits while they are young. Space will not allow me to write the details of the godly life that sprung up out of this solid beginning. I must stay with the area of his home; however, I was delighted to find the words, made famous by Jim Elliot, written as a quote from his heart. "He is no fool who gives up that which he cannot keep, to gain that which he cannot lose." These words were guiding principles in Phillip's life.

Courtship and Marriage

Foundations are made up of stones, all carefully placed for strength to hold a building. In the same manner, the foundations that hold many generations of godly servants are made of individual stones, and a proper courtship and marriage is one of those solid stones. Sometimes these valuable stones are difficult to lay, and such was the case with Phillip Henry.

By the time Phillip was inclined to take a wife, he had been a preacher and pastor for five

years. God was clearly leading him to a young woman, Katherine Matthews, who lived in the town where he served. The leadings and feelings were mutual on her part, and Phillip began the process of seeking her hand in marriage. This brought a time of trials and testing to him as her father and some of the town's people did not approve. Phillip's life as a preacher was blameless, but not all accepted the nonconformists in those days. "He is a stranger, and we don't know where he comes from" were the words of some of the town's people. Her reply to them is classic. She retorted with, "It is true, but I know where he is going, and I should like to go with him." Phillip's vision was clear, and Katherine knew, if a man knows where he is going, it matters not where he is from.

Katherine's father was the greatest trial as he began to make the terms of the marriage so difficult that Phillip would just break off the relationship. In these things, God's grace did shine, and through faith, patience and a humble spirit, he did eventually inherit the promise of a godly wife. They married in the spring of 1660, with the blessing of her father and the town's people. The day before the wedding was spent in prayer and fasting, searching the heart and rededicating the

life to God. This is quite different from the day before a wedding today. Six children were born from this holy union; two boys, and four girls.

There is very little record of this saintly woman's life; however, the testimony of her son, Matthew Henry, speaks volumes about her. "My mother excelled as much in her sphere as my father did in his." This speaks of a hidden woman who knew her place, and joyfully served there. Phillip said of Katherine, "After

twenty years of marriage, we have had not one need of reconciling." That means, there were no arguments, no disagreements. Phillip and Katherine were in love. The children knew it, and the recorded letters testify of it. They prayed together morning and evening without fail all their married days.

Dear fathers and mothers, this foundation stone is a many generation foundation stone. Solid marriages produce stable, secure children.

Even the worldly psychologists will attest to this. Preachers, missionaries, godly mothers, and commentators, come from these stable homes. We must sigh and cry to God for our marriages, and get help if we need to, until our homes are healed, and our children blest.

There was a room in the house called the closet, and it was used as regularly as the bedroom or the kitchen. Three times a day he retired into that sanctified room to pour out his heart to God, and to meditate. He walked before his family in a perfect way with a perfect heart...

Quiet Time, the Strength of Phillip's Home

An atmosphere of grace permeated the home of Phillip and Katherine Henry. There are reasons for this. We have considered some of the reasons already; however, I believe the greatest strength of their home was in the secret place. There was a

room in the house called the closet, and it was used as regularly as the bedroom or the kitchen. This godly father had a conviction about quiet time, or closet worship as he called it, and he never missed. Three times a day he retired into that sanctified room to pour out his heart to God, and to meditate. He walked before his family in a perfect way with a perfect heart, because he was often in solitude, stirring up his affections toward God through prayer and the

study of the Word. He was found in his closet between four and five every morning. With conviction and a life to back it up, he guided his friends and family to “keep your secret duty whatever you do.” Look at this quote he wrote about the quiet time. “Apostasy generally begins at the closet door. Secret prayer is first neglected, and carelessly performed, then frequently omitted, and after a while wholly cast off; then farewell God, and Christ, and all religion.” I am shocked when I travel, and ask parents about their devotional life. Very few have any kind of consistent early morning time with God. Danger! Danger!

Family Worship

“He who makes his house a little church, shall find that God will make it a little sanctuary.” These words express the determined heart of a father who believed in family worship. In the resource that I studied, the term “he made conscience” was used to describe his desire to gather all in his house. It means that his conscience would not let him neglect this sacred duty. In all my studies of home histories, I have never seen such an example of dogged determination as he. Phillip Henry believed, if the fires of family devotions do not burn in a home, it can hardly be called a Christian family. I wonder how we Americans would fare with such an evaluation. In this responsibility, he was exemplary. He was uniform, steady, and constant, from the time he started his home to his dying day. This was done morning and evening, just as the daily sacrifices offered by devout Jews in the Old Testament. All the servants, visitors, workers, and even day laborers gathered for these delightful meals, which he fed to his family, and they were not disappointed.

I am sure, if we had the facts, this man’s home would be worthy of a whole book of study, however, there is very little record of it. How sad this is to me. I continually face the problem of writing about a godly Christian of the past, with little information about their

home. It seems there was no vision. The record that we do have is a clear detailed explanation of every aspect of family worship. Family worship seems to have been his greatest strength, and that which had the greatest impact upon his children. Let’s look at the order of this sacred exercise, which he conducted for thirty minutes, twice each day.

➤ **A Solemn Prayer**

Phillip led his family to come like beggars to the Lord to ask alms of Him. He always sanctified the family’s devotional time with this kind of prayer. A petition ascended up out of a sincere heart, for bread to feed the family. This prayer often centered on the Word of God, that it might be a living, quickening word from God for the day. It was a prayer for understanding, and insight into the original intent of a particular portion of Scripture. It was not a long prayer, but more like a prayer you might hear before a sermon in a church service. *Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud; and he shall hear my voice. Psalm 55:17*

➤ **David’s Psalms**

In those days, there were no hymnbooks, as we know them. They sang the Psalms, one each time, whether short or long. It was considered sacrilegious to sing anything else; however, it is interesting to see how Phillip ordered the singing in his house. He stepped beyond the accepted norm to stimulate heartfelt worship during family devotions. The custom of the day was to read a verse, then sing it by memory. Phillip had songbooks for each one in the family, so they could sing verse by verse without any interruption. Hymns were normally sung in a very slow timing, but he encouraged a faster tempo during the singing. These two changes produced a joyful, wholehearted time of singing that gave clear definition to the term “family worship”. *The voice of rejoicing and of salvation is in the tabernacles of the righteous. Psalm 118:15*

➤ **Exposition of Scripture**

Just like the priest was to light the lamps daily in the temple, Phillip Henry believed it was his responsibility to light a fire in his family with the Word of God. This exercise followed the singing of a Psalm. He went through the Bible in order, verse-by-verse, teaching and admonishing as he went. In this manner, he took his family through the entire Bible several times. This godly man was an expositor of the Word, and excelled in his explanations and applications to the text at hand. He had an amazing ability to break the Word down into easily understandable thoughts, and often gave the family a basic outline of the flow of thought in the verses read for the day. Phillip received many encouragements to put his expositions down on paper, for the benefit of a larger audience; however, he was a humble man, and thought some others could do a better job. I mentioned earlier that it is hard to determine who the commentator is. This is the reason why I stated it that way. There sat a boy named Matthew, copying sermons as his father spoke, and noting the outlines and the many applications as he listened. Many years later, Matthew sat down to write out his comments on the Scriptures, and what do you suppose flowed out? These expositions were given with very little preparation, and were filled with practical, useful answers for everyday life. *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 upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little. Isaiah 28:9-10*

➤ **Open Discussion**

After he finished his exposition, he then turned to the family for some discussion on the text. He wanted to see how much they had retained of the lesson of the day, and to hear their reflections on it. This man was a master teacher, who knew that learning is cemented into the fabric of the soul through

dialogue. This also brought accountability to each member of the family, as they knew he would ask them later. *Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon His name. Mal. 3:16*

➤ **Family Prayers**

When all these holy exercises were finished, Phillip led his family to the throne of grace. With unction and much affection, he prayed through the issues facing the family at that time. He prayed about the things taught from the Word, and even the things taught through the singing of the Psalm. His prayers were free, extemporaneous expressions of his longing heart, though many used a prayer book in those days. He prayed about family sins, and begged for family blessings, finishing with thanksgiving for God's tender mercies on them all. The children heard their names fervently expressed before the Lord on a regular basis. Matthew Henry recalls many occasions when the atmosphere was affected by his father's prayers, and they knew they were in fact before God's throne.

➤ **The Family Blessing**

This is truly the icing on the cake. When the benediction and doxology were finished, the children came with bended knee to ask father and mother for a spoken blessing upon them. This was given with sincerity and affection, not as a religious form; then each member went about their own activities.

I am sure you will agree, this was a teacher "extraordinaire", but his teaching went far beyond the regular times of the day. Phillip was a tender, loving father, who kept the communication lines open at all times. He was fun to be around, and easy to talk to. This opened the door of the heart to many impromptu lessons as they walked through life. It is very clear to me, that he understood the power of relationships,

and established his authority along lines of wisdom and love, rather than fear and judgment.

The Lord's Day, Queen of Days

As we look into the schedule of their regular day, it is easy to see that every day of the week was a sanctified day, a day set apart for the Lord. This is New Covenant Christianity at its best. However, Phillip also delighted in the principle of the Sabbath carried out on the Lord's Day. He did not press the laws of a Sabbath as in the Old Testament, like no cooking, or only a short walk, but instead, he lifted up many positive aspects that brought edification to his family. He made it the best day of the week, and gave special attention to teaching and training on that day. To Phillip, every day was a good day, but the Lord's Day was the Queen of days. Each Sunday morning, he prepared a special teaching for the family, covering many topics through the years. There were more songs of praise and more family prayers on this special day also. On Sunday evening, he catechized and examined the children in the great doctrines of the faith, and then they finished with a healthy discussion on the Sunday morning sermon. I know that we should be careful about making lots of rules for the Lord's Day, however, this example comes as a refreshing reminder of what could be, in an age when most "Christians" go to church, and then live the rest of the day for themselves. Are we so afraid of the law of the Sabbath, that we have forsaken the spirit of the Sabbath? Have we taken the Lord's Day, profaned it, and made it common like all the rest of our days?

God's Mysterious Providence

I never tire of gazing on the circumstances of men's lives from heaven's perspective. The mysterious hand of God moves behind the

scenes, working out His divine will with amazing clarity. God makes no mistakes, and there are no tragedies when we view things from His throne. The life of Phillip Henry is no exception.

In the same year that his son Matthew was born, his world was turned upside down by the Act of Uniformity. In the midst of a prosperous, influential ministry, he lost all public opportunity to preach. What were the issues? The Act of Uniformity demanded several things which put the King of England in charge of the Church of Christ. Phillip Henry, along with 2,000 other ministers, could not comply with this edict, and they lost their pulpits for about ten years. To insure that these ministers would have no influence upon their people, the Five Mile Act was also enforced upon them. This meant that every minister had to move at least five miles away from his former congregation, and become a faithful church member in another congregation. Put yourself in his place. This was a tremendous humiliation, and an absolute dying to all personal ambitions of ministry.

At first glance, one might think this was a great tragedy, but let us take a closer look at this sad turn of events. Some beautiful, sovereign circumstances took place because of this special discipline upon Phillip's life. What are they, and what was the result of the changes? Let's look at them.

➤ Home Schooling

Sending your children to a "good school" was the normal thing to do in those days. I am sure Matthew would have attended one of these schools, but there was much uncertainty. The only thing to do was to school the children at home. Tutors were hired to do some of the teaching, and Phillip actively engaged his energies to give the children a good education. He taught all the children to write, and trained them to copy sermons in the manner that his mother had taught him. He gave them a well-rounded education in history, geography, and philosophy. And of course, he trained them in religion.

➤ **A Faithful Example**

You can stop a man from preaching, but you can never take a faithful man's ministry away from him, because a man's life is his ministry. This principle is clearly seen in the life of Phillip Henry. His example to his family and to the community is powerful. He always had his family in church, always supported the preacher with prayers, and hospitality, and he faithfully loved the brothers and sisters of his congregation.

➤ **He Trained His Children**

As you read about family worship at the Henry home, you might have thought this man was extreme, but consider another perspective. This man was full of the life and revelation of Almighty God. He was a fountain pent up. Like Jeremiah of old, the Word was like a fire shut up in his bones. You cannot stop a fountain from gushing forth. If you try to stop it from flowing one way, it will find another path and flow there. This is the nature of water. This prophet turned all his spiritual energies toward his home, and his children prospered, and well as his wife. When you bring a warrior home, he will turn his abilities into training soldiers. There is a great lesson in this for all of us fathers. We can be very spiritual men, yet our families can miss the benefits of our spiritual life. We must be careful to allow enough time for the family to prosper from it. In the case of Phillip Henry, he unknowingly raised a commentator during his hidden years. Not a bad investment of his time. Just like John Bunyan, who seemed to waste

his years in a prison, God stepped in and made something valuable out of those years. Phillip preached through the Bible several times, and because he taught the children to take extensive notes, Matthew had a large stack of notes on the Bible by the time he was twenty-one. All this preparation made it very easy and natural to write a commentary of the Bible in his later years. Praise be to the only wise God!

Solid marriages produce stable, secure children. Preachers, missionaries, godly mothers, and commentators, come from these stable homes. We must sigh and cry to God for our marriages, and get help if we need to, until our homes are healed, and our children blest.

Conclusion

The children that came forth from the home of Phillip and Katherine Henry all rose up with faith and zeal to worship and serve the God of their father. Except for John, who died of measles at age six, all the children had testimonies of godliness, and married partners of the same character. They went on to establish homes after the pattern we have seen in this study. God's ways never change. His precepts are timeless.

What worked for these saints of old will work for anyone who believes and obeys. By faith, let us rise up with confidence, and train a generation of children who love God. □

This study was taken from the volume:
The Lives of Phillip and Matthew Henry
published by
Banner of Truth Trust ©1974
ISBN 85151-178-3

THE FATHER'S HAND

**While through this changing world below
I would not choose my path to go;
'Tis the Father's hand that leadeth me,
Then O how safe His child must be.**

**Sometimes we walk in sunshine bright,
Sometimes in darkness of the night;
Sometimes the way I cannot see
But Father's hand still leadeth me.**

**Sometimes there seems no way to take,
But Father's hand a way doth make.
Sometimes I hear Him gently say,
"Come follow Me, this is the way".**

**Why should I mind the way I go?
His way is best for me, I know.
He is my strength, my truth, my way,
He is my comfort, rod, and stay.**

**So on we travel hand in hand,
Bound for the heavenly promised land
Always through all Eternity,
I'll praise His name for leading me.**

- Ida L. Cornett -

Parenthood

A SACRED TRUST

*Selected from a 1905 writing by Ella Kellog
Revised and edited by Rachel Weaver*

Part I



No occupation, profession or mission in life is of so great importance, no privilege so high and holy, no calling so full of wonderful possibilities as that of parenthood. We are entrusted, in a great measure, with the working out of God's ideal for each child in our family. To the extent that this trust is fulfilled, these individual characters shall be rounded out in fullness of noble man- or womanhood, or dwarfed by neglect and deformed by sin.

It is a blessed privilege to give a careful start to the little pilgrim just entering upon life's journey, and to develop with reverent care the image planted there by God, the Creator. It is a wonderful opportunity for us to so accustom the child to a pure and holy atmosphere that he cannot breathe freely in any other. If we neglect these very impressionable first years of our child's life and let them slip by unimproved, no matter how hard we work in later years, the result will never be as perfect as it might have been if we had carefully trained them early in precept and principle.

Our highest duties reach beyond feeding and clothing our little ones. This "working together" with God in the building of each child's character is our special prerogative, and no engrossment in outside interests should prevent us from this calling. In our attempt to direct the growth of our children in right ways, we must become constantly involved in our own spiritual

and emotional development. No one would think of going on a mission to a foreign land without a careful study of the country, as far as is obtainable from the knowledge and experience gained by others who have been there. Yet many parents take on a far more comprehensive charge of giving directions to the character of their child and training his soul, with little or no knowledge of how to accomplish the task, and often with no thought to learn. They clothe and feed the child and provide for his physical needs, but they miss the needs of his inner nature.

Our obligation extends far beyond the child's body. Its whole being is entrusted to us so that we may draw out the beauty of possibilities that God has put there and develop it for service to the Master. The very best which we, with the help of God, can attain is none too much for this high calling.

A constant discipline of self is a necessary requisite for effective work in character shaping. We must learn to be good models, for what we **ARE** will teach the child far more than what we **SAY**. We should represent Christ so well, that our children, imitating us, will follow Him and become more like Him.

In addition to the love and tenderness, which every child should have from birth, there are other qualities that every godly parent needs:

■ PATIENCE

Webster's 1882 dictionary defines patience as,

"...endurance without murmurings or fretfulness. A calm temper which bears evil without murmuring or discontent...perseverance: constancy in labor or exertion." Every

■ SELF-CONTROL

The definition of self-control is, "to remain in control of one's self, namely to control our feelings and our pas-

We are entrusted, in a great measure, with the working out of God's ideal for each child in our family. To the extent that this trust is fulfilled, these individual characters shall be rounded out in fullness of noble man or womanhood, or dwarfed by neglect and deformed by sin.

parent needs an abundant measure of patience. It is needed when we are tired and when the children are fretful or ill. We need it when they are full of fun and noise. Patience should be inseparably connected with child life in our home.

Our impatience begets impatience in the child and usually results in great losses for both. Christ said, "*In patience possess ye your souls.*" (Luke 21:19) Some translations read, "*In patience win your lives.*" And patience is just as surely the success to winning the hearts of your children. Do not be discouraged when fruit for your effort comes slowly. God taught the Israelites, "*precept upon precept, line upon line, here a little and there a little.*" Just so, we need to learn to deal patiently with our little folks.

sions and our habits." We are forming other lives by our example, and self-control is as necessary to the parent as inexhaustible patience. If we would like to teach godly character, we must control our own feelings, thoughts, and actions. We cannot teach self-control if we do not possess it. The Proverb writer says, "*He that controls his spirit is better than he that ruleth a city.*" When we become upset with our children while we are training them, we hinder and mar the results. God would teach us self-control so that we can teach our children this discipline.

■ LOYALTY TO TRUTH

Loyalty to truth is simply a strict adherence to truth. Parents must be the living embodiment of truth and loyalty to any principle they would like to instill into their children's lives. Keep your

word with the children. All promises made and forgotten or broken intentionally are lessons in dishonesty. Dishonesty in any form breeds dishonesty in your child. If you do not wish to have your child deceive you, do not deal falsely with others. Your child is

standing grandmother took her up in her lap and held her close for a few minutes. "You need a bit of comfort," she said. The little one cuddled up and calmed down. She was then led away sweetly to bed. A few days later at home she faced a big disappointment.

Parents need to know their children and understand their hearts, their desires, their tendencies, and their aspirations.

This kind of caring and insight binds your child's heart to you. It is closely interwoven with sympathy.

watching. Pay your bills on time, return borrowed books, give honest answers, and be real in the life you live. If you pretend to be someone you are not, your children know it and think less of you for it.

■ SYMPATHY

This is the quality of being affected by the feelings of another. A bond of sympathy and companionable relationship should exist between every child and his parents. When we truly understand our children's needs, we take the time to listen sympathetically to them. We identify with them in times of difficulty and share with them in prayer times. One little one at her grandmother's house for the night was having a very difficult time when told that it was her bedtime. The under-

She ran to her mother, took hold of her skirt and said, "I need some comfort like Grandma has." The puzzled mother asked Grandma what the child meant and the wise grandmother explained. Each child needs to have the confidence that we know and care for them. This is especially important, and equally difficult in families where the little ones come close together. This sympathy comes from a listening, loving heart. It is born of a close walk with the Master, "for He had compassion on them."

■ INSIGHT

Parents need to know their children and understand their hearts, their desires, their tendencies, and their aspirations. This kind of caring and insight binds your child's heart to

you. It is closely interwoven with sympathy. When you acknowledge that you both need to obtain the same grace, pardon, and strength in your struggles against temptation, your child is greatly encouraged. How can you obtain such caring and insight into their life? There is only one way! It comes from the Divine fountain of knowledge. *"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally... And it shall be given him."* (James 1:5) God always gives us wisdom when we recognize our need of Him and are obedient to Him.

■ UNITY

Parents must be in agreement with each other. Arguments, hasty words, and expressing differing opinions in regards to discipline must not happen in our homes. We will not always agree on everything. No two people of positive character are likely to. But, all differences can be talked over pleasantly and courteously. Nothing is more disastrous to good home government than for a child to perceive that a father does not respect the mother's opinion, or when a mother has no regard for the conviction of the father... *"...Being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers be not hindered."* (1 Peter 3:7)

■ FAITHFULNESS

God does not demand great deeds of us in child
continued on page 19



The Family That God Put Back Together

by Mike & Lynn O'Donnell

Lynn's Testimony

Mike and I met when we lived across the street from each other in Mission Viejo, CA. I was very busy in nursing school, but we dated occasionally until I graduated. Three months later we got engaged, and 7 months later were married on April 9, 1988. I was very worldly and living for myself. Mike and I treated each other like roommates, not husband and wife. We used our differences as criticisms against each other, instead of learning to compliment each other. I worked night shift and

alternate weekends, and Mike worked on weekdays. On our days off together we had a bad habit of indulging in wine or beer, which fueled a lot of our problems.

I loved Mike, but didn't know how to get past our differences. As a wedding gift my parents had sold us one of their rental properties. We had a mortgage that required both of our incomes, which I had agreed to, but one year after our wedding God brought us a beautiful baby girl in April 1989. It was a special time for us. I felt as though God had showered me with love from heaven as I held her in my arms. I didn't know leaving her and going back to work would be so difficult.

We could not afford our home on one income, and housing rentals were just as high as our mortgage. When my husband asked me to go back to work I rebelled strongly, making his life with me very hard. I began to develop bitterness and lack of respect for him. My uncompromising attitude placed much more added tension on our marriage.

I turned to God for help by praying to Jesus, saying novenas, and the Rosary. At this time I did not know Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. I had been searching for the truth; you see, I had fallen into a rebellion from my dear parents' and God's ways since the time I was in high school, and over the last 12 years had tried different methods to free myself of my past sins and guilt I carried. Needless to mention, none of them worked. I had wept and prayed the sinner's prayer to receive Christ in my heart a few times, but never had a true conversion.

When I reluctantly returned to work I found it very difficult to serve two headships, my husband and my employer. I became more independent and self-reliant, but it wasn't the way I wanted it to be. I had no way to free myself of these selfish, sinful attitudes that were aiding in destroying my marriage. I was consumed with the needs of my daughter and myself, and our wedding vows had less and less meaning. The true freedom to release those burdens and self-centeredness can only come from Christ, by placing your burdens and sins upon that glorious cross. We tried Christian counseling, but nothing seemed to help us. By the time our daughter was 10 months old I had filed for a divorce, and was preparing to move up to Oregon where it was much more affordable to live. I hoped that absence would make the heart grow fonder, and we could reconcile and start over in a new area, easing the financial stresses.

What a miracle took place that night! All I had to bring to Jesus was a heart full of wicked sins; He lovingly took them all and filled me with the Living God of truth and mercy! I was so fulfilled and renewed. I had life and energy I'd never had before.

When my daughter Patty and I moved up to Oregon, Mike came up to visit us a couple times. His visits seemed futile though. Beer and wine often accompanied our time together in the evenings, and our lack of tolerance toward one another got worse. I began to wonder if the grass was greener on the other side. I convinced myself it was alright to date, because I was divorced now. It felt awkward and uncomfortable, but I began to date someone and shamefully admit, fell into moral failure. Mike was back in California, but I still felt we were one flesh. Even though I chose to go my own way and temporarily ignore what God was trying to show me about my marriage, He still never gave up on me or my marriage to Mike. It didn't take me long to realize the grass was not

greener, and things felt worse in this new relationship than they did with my husband. God used this bad experience to soften and humble me towards Mike.

After a couple of months I eagerly quit dating. My heart kept returning to Mike. I couldn't ignore any longer the spir-

itual bond that God put between Mike and I on the day we said our wedding vows, and I knew in my heart I was still married to him. Looking back, my Lord remained so patient and faithful to me as He waited for my heart to ripen for salvation.

I started calling Mike every evening after work for a month, then I took our daughter and flew back to California for a few days to reconcile at whatever cost it took. Mike agreed to reconcile with me. He moved up here to Oregon with us, and shortly after our reconciliation, God gave us another special reason to stay together; nine months later, a beloved baby boy arrived into our lives. Sadly, our selfish struggles surfaced again. We now had two valuable reasons to "stick it out together", but our love

did not grow for each other, because we still harbored resentment and stubbornness. Five months later, by what I feel was God's guidance, my generous father helped us buy an old farmhouse to restore on three acres. I say God because I was a modern day city girl, who had no previous desire or liking to live out in the country. Things got much worse in the stress of trying to remodel. God allowed our relationship to be further fragmented, to the point of exhaustion and hopelessness. We reluctantly decided to "throw in the towel", but I knew my life wouldn't be any happier, and I did not want to find someone new. I had used up all worldly resources in trying to be content, but all were futile. With all honesty, it was my own wicked, unforgiven heart that made me so miserable.

One night, while I was taking my turn on the couch to sleep, I was awakened at 11:45 P.M., feeling like I was buried in a coffin of unforgiveness, burdens, and guilt with no way out or anyone left to call to for help. I searched for things to do to distract me. Nothing made me feel any better. It was hard for me to even sit and read the Bible. I couldn't watch TV, because just the day before my husband had thrown the TV antennae out in the back sheep pasture, which has been a blessing to this day. Nothing could take my mind off my agony. Finally, I did what God had been waiting so patiently for me to do. I went outside in the spitting rain and wept with utter urgency for Jesus to forgive me and make me His own, to be my dear, precious Daddy, whom I could trust and obey with my whole heart. I would submit and follow Him anywhere. He could take my life and do whatever He pleased with me. When I came back in the house it was 12:45 A.M. I had felt a life come into my soul, with an assurance that I was His and my sins had been forgiven. My words cannot truly reflect what I was feeling, but it went beyond any kind of love or joy I had ever experienced. What a miracle took place that night! All I had to bring to Jesus was a heart full of wicked sins; He lovingly took them all and filled me with the Living God of truth and mercy!

I was so fulfilled and renewed. I had life and energy I'd never had before. I truly knew now that Jesus Christ was God and my heart

was filled with His love. All my searching had ended, I found what I had needed and wanted all of my life! I was afraid to tell my husband for fear he wouldn't understand and would discourage what I had just gotten. I was a new creation in Christ Jesus. After two days of living in my joy of being forgiven and having the living God in my heart, I couldn't keep it hidden. I decided to share my new self with my husband. When I told him my experience with God, he looked at me and said, "You've been born again!" He understood exactly what had happened to me and was shocked. Incredibly, the same night I had met the spirit of the Living God, He had mercy upon Mike also. God healed him of all desires for alcohol and any bitterness in our relationship. God had restored my husband and put a new life into him. The prodigal son had come home! A pure and powerful love came into both our hearts for Christ and then for each other. Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for His mercies and goodness endureth forever!

We received Christian discipleship from a pastor, and six weeks later we were remarried. Our life has never been the same. What was impossible for us to do was not impossible for God. It will be 11 years ago, that glorious night, Oct. 11, 1992, that my name was written in the Lamb's Book of Life and my husband's life with Christ was restored. God has continued through these years to be faithful and true, letting us always know He is with us all the way and will never leave us nor forsake us (Heb. 13:5). He is tenderly showing us how to die to this ugly flesh, and the way to happiness. He will go through the rough waters with us. We have 5 beautiful children now and a blessed life in Christ that I am not worthy to have.

It is my sincere prayer that in sharing my sinful past with whomever may read this, that it will keep at least one soul from going down that path of destruction like I did. And for those souls so precious to God that have sunk down into the pits of sin and feel there is no way out, I want them to know through my testimony, that there is a hope through Jesus Christ and with Him comes a love and forgiveness unknown to the unsanctified heart.



Mike's Testimony:

Back in 1977 my life centered around surfing and the cares of this world. One day while I was at Huntington Beach Pier, CA, a small group of Christians from Calvary Chapel in Costa Mesa were passing out Chick Tracts. I would take some and put them in my pocket to read later, while my friends would throw them away. On a hot August night I was drawn by the Holy Spirit and convicted of my sinful heart. I was born and raised a Roman Catholic, but even though I went through all the sacraments I knew deep down in my heart I was not saved. After reading through the tract "This Was Your Life" several times, I got down on my knees and prayed to receive Christ as my Savior. The first two times I prayed, God saw through my dishonesty about myself, then the third time I gave up all and surrendered my life to Christ. I had an unspeakable joy and life come through me with a peace I never knew existed. I saw everything through different eyes than before! I followed Christ about a year, but I didn't nurture my newly found faith and the worldly temptations were too great. I sadly backslid and returned to my previous friends and habits. It was 11 years later that I met and married my best friend and wife of today. We were married April 9, 1988, in St. Killian's Church in Mission Viejo, CA. I brought to the marriage my immaturity, social drinking, and foolishness. I was 31 years old when I got married and was set in my ways of living and lifestyle. I loved Lynn, but didn't know how to show it. My self-centeredness and immaturity caused me to not put my wife and family first. This resulted in a lot of tension between us. About seven months into my

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I cried out to God to heal
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That night my wife got saved and
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marriage, I tried to restore my life back with God by going to a local Calvary Chapel in Laguna Hills, CA. My heart wasn't truly repentant and I felt condemnation from 11 years of running from God. I was miserable with myself! At this time, I didn't know God was using these feelings to chasten me and bring me back to Him. I knew my wife didn't understand what I was going through. This went on for about a year. My wife and I grew further apart and by the time we were married two years we were divorcing, and she left for Oregon. I know God still had His hand on my life. During the time of divorce I sank deeper into sin. I was drinking, taking surfing trips to Mexico, and practicing immoral behavior. When I dated I knew what I was doing was wrong in God's eyes. The verse in Mark 10:11, "Whosoever shall put away his wife and marry another, committeth adultery against her", kept returning to my thoughts. I felt like I was still married to Lynn even though I had a piece of paper that said civil divorce. Matthew 19:6, "Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man put asunder." I didn't want to think about it, but fortunately God still kept reminding me. After eight months God had softened my heart toward Lynn, and I was ready to at least attempt to reconcile and try to surrender some of my ways. Within a couple of months I had moved up to Oregon, but my baggage of bitterness and unforgiveness came up with me, and we began blaming one another for the divorce. We moved out to a three acre farm and during that time our relationship got worse to the point that we were going to separate again. The next night I realized that I did not want a separation. God still reminded me of the verse in Mark 10:11. Then on the night of Oct. 11, I cried

out to God to heal my marriage and went to sleep. That night my wife got saved, and God healed me of my drinking habit, bitterness and unforgiveness toward her. Mark 11:26 "But if ye do not forgive, neither will your father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses." I did not know I had been healed of all my vices until I brought home a beer, took a few sips and poured it out. I had completely lost my desire for drinking. Praise God. It has been almost 11 years now since this miracle happened and all desire for alcohol remains lifted, as though I had never drank! My mind and body continue to be healed from that curse.

A couple of mornings after Oct. 11, before I left for work, my wife decided to share with me what had happened to her. I knew God had saved her and she was born again. Right then the Holy Spirit spoke to me and said, "Do not cause my little child to sin." I knew God had healed my marriage and answered my prayer. I repented after I realized what a miracle had

happened between us. I accepted full responsibility for my actions without blaming anyone else. I was a new creation in Christ! God's grace and unconditional love had restored a backslidden prodigal! My life has never been the same since! His faithfulness continues to renew and guide me in my life, marriage, and with our children. I owe my Savior everything, for I was blinded by sin and now I see; I was lost and am found! Thank you Jesus.

And if she depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband; and let her husband not put away his wife. I Cor. 7:11

Lynn and I would like to thank those loving brothers and sisters at Charity Ministries who, over the last 8 years, have unknowingly been used as the Lord's vessels to us through your Tape Ministry and The Remnant. We will be forever thankful to God for their example as Christians and their boldness to proclaim the Gospel in love and without compromise. □

continued from page 14, Parenthood, A Sacred Trust by Ella Kellog

training. Rather, He asks for continued obedience and faithfulness in the little duties that come to hand every day in our lives. Such faithfulness is nothing less than the most conscientious, careful, loyal effort within our power, unceasingly put forth.

Nothing is too small to count. There is no point where it is safe to relax our endeavors. If our hands are slack for even a day, doing our work carelessly, we pay for it dearly. Consistency in training is so important. Faithfulness pays great dividends. It produces happy, relaxed, obedient children and rewarded parents. Lax discipline produces harried parents and children who are extremely difficult to manage.

■ HEALTH

If we are to be well fitted to fulfill our responsibilities in the ablest manner, we must possess sound, good health. Children's active minds and bodies place incessant demands even upon those in the best of health.

When we are nervous and irritable, the feeling is likely to be mutual, and the whole atmosphere of the home becomes one of impatience and irritability. Well-rested and well-nourished parents have a distinctly calming

affect upon the atmosphere around them. The ill health of any parent is likely to exert a disturbing influence on the child's character. No measure within the parents' power should be neglected to gain good health, both for the sake of themselves and their children. While this is the ideal, it is not always attainable. Once we have done our best to meet this area of need, we must then trust the Lord, and remember that His grace is sufficient for every situation.

To be continued...

□

Help us to smooth the path of knowledge for the little feet;
Make the ways of wisdom beautiful and sweet.
Teach us, we pray Thee, guide us all the way.
Strengthen us to lead them upward every day.



SACRIFICE

The Highest Form of Worship

Dear Jesus,

My Lord, my Savior, my Master, my King. Your name is Wonderful, Precious to my ears. My Creator, I adore you above all; my Redeemer, I trust you completely; my King, I willingly obey your command; my Master, I humbly submit to your perfect will; my Savior, I praise you with all my life breath; my Bridegroom, I love you with an unrivaled, never-ending love. When I hear Your Name my heart leaps, but when I hear Your voice, Oh! how much more my soul and my spirit rise up to drink from the cleansing fountain, the fountain of the water of life. Your Words to me are more to be desired than gold, yea than

much fine gold, sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. The Voice of my Lord is powerful, your Voice is full of majesty, your Voice divideth the flames of fire, your Voice shaketh the wilderness, your Voice maketh the hinds to calve, and in Your temple will I speak of Your Glory. Just as You, O Christ, were raised from the dead by the Glory of the Father, even so I also was raised to walk in newness of life by Your Glory. Bless the Lord O my soul, bless Your Holy Name. Oh, that the world might behold Your Glory, the Glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

My Jesus I love Thee, I know Thou art mine; for Thee

all the folly of sin I resign; my gracious Redeemer, my Saviour art Thou; if ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now. You are worthy O Lord, to receive glory, and honor, and power, praise, worship, and thanksgiving. My life, my love I give to Thee, Thou Lamb of God Who died for me; Oh, may I ever faithful be, my Savior and my God. Take my life and let it be, consecrated Lord to Thee; take my love, my Lord I pour, at Thy feet its treasure store; take my heart, it is Thine own, it shall be Thy royal throne. Abide with me O Lord, and make me one with You, that the world may know that You have come to receive them unto Yourself, that the Father would be glorified.

O my Lord, when I was yet in my sin, bound in the shackles of selfish desire, following my own way, the alluring ways of this world, believing the lies of the devil; when I was weak and without hope, stumbling in the darkness of pride, You sweetly beckoned, lovingly whispered, with tender mercy bid me to come. Come unto Me you said, come and receive rest, peace I give to you, not as the world gives, but holy peace, abiding peace, pure, lovely, true peace in loving Me, learning of Me, allowing Me to make you meek and lowly in heart that I may abide in You. My Lord, how can I thank you. Unworthy, unworthy I am, O Lord, to receive Your pardon. My heart and my eyes bow down prostrate before you, O Lord, in Your Holy Presence. My soul trembles when I gaze at Your beautiful, blinding majesty. The things of earth grow strangely dim in the light of Your Glory and Grace. My eyes fall low in my undoneness, fearing to even glance at the beauty of Your Holiness; yet You gently, lovingly lift my face to behold the Rose of Sharon, the Lily of the Valley, the Bright and Morning Star. O, I would love Thee, Lord and Savior, my Redeemer and my King. I would love Thee, I have vowed it, on Thy love my heart is set. While I love Thee, I will never my Redeemer's blood forget. To think, my Lord, that you, the King of kings and the Lord of lords, being in the form of God thought it not robbery to be equal with God; but made

Yourself of no reputation, and took the form of a servant. And being found in fashion as a man, You looked upon a sinful, rebellious wretch of a man such as I, and yet still You humbled Yourself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Oh such humility, oh such obedience, oh such love, such wondrous love. Did ever human tongue find nobler theme than love divine that ransomed me? That for a willful outcast such as I, the Father planned, the Savior bled and died; redemption for a worthless slave to buy, who long had law and grace defied. Such love, such wondrous love, that You, my Jesus, should love a sinner such as I, how wonderful is love like this. Jesus, Thy boundless love to me, no thought can reach, no tongue declare; unite my thankful heart to Thee, and reign without a rival there. Thine wholly, Thine alone I am; my soul with constant love aflame. O Jesus, nothing may I see, nothing desire or seek but Thee. As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after Thee. I long to lean on Your breast as John did, to sit at Your feet like Mary, to pour out all of my ointment from my alabaster box. Though I'm just an earthen vessel, I yearn to bring forth perfect worship in the beauty of holiness, all to please You, my God.

O my Jesus, that I may know You more fully, that I may love You more perfectly. That I may be crucified with You, O Lord, that self would no longer live, but You, O

Christ, would live in me. That You would receive the reward of Your suffering, that You would receive the glory and honor due to Your Holy Name. O Lord, forgive me for all that is in me that has hindered Your work, that has restricted the outworking of Your Holy Spirit, for all that has prevented others from seeing the Brightness and Majesty of Your Glory. Thank You my Lord, for Your abundant grace, that I may present to You this day my body, heart, soul, mind, and strength, a living sacrifice unto You. Prune me, purge me, cleanse me, purify me, that You may use me in whatsoever way you will, that Your Holy Name, Lord Jesus, may be exalted, high and lifted up, glorified with all glory. Oh what a small offering that is compared to Your sacrifice. Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small; love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all. Lord, make me more sensitive for the Honor of Your Glory, more jealous for Your Name's sake.

I love You Lord, and I lift my voice, to worship You, O my soul rejoice. Take joy my King, in what You hear; may it be a sweet, sweet sound in Your ear. Thank you, my Lord, for hearing this feeble, faltering tongue. Now Lord, You speak, for Your servant heareth.

*Love,
Your Adopted Son*

□

My Passion

“Oh my God, possess my soul with such a fervent love of thee that it may transcend all earthly loves. Bring my whole being into such a deep fellowship with Thee that Thy love may flow through me to permeate all around, filling those I meet with Thy joy which none can take away. That Thy touch may be Thee in me, so that in the daily affairs of life it will be as gentle and tender, yet as firm and strong, as was Thine in Christ Jesus. That Thy peace, the peace of Thy presence that passeth all understanding, may flow through me as Thy river, the river of Life, will flow from Thy throne to the healing of the nations.”

- *Geoffrey Lehmann*

*taken from
“The Himalayan
Heartbeat”
by Ken Anderson*



Announcing...

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You will be receiving an announcement in the mail sometime during the month of December with registration information and other details. If you have any other questions, call Charity Ministries at 1-800-227-7902.



Grace Awakening

by Michael McDaniel

Our precious Lord is so very gracious and longsuffering with sinners like me. For so many years, His Spirit lingered and the angels watched, awaiting the time when my heart would be fully turned toward Him. As a professing Christian for 35 years, I had a form of godliness but denied the power thereof. Although I attended services regularly, preached sermons and believed I was born again, I was in fact *lifeless*. My heart was empty and my eyes were dry. I was a self-righteous Pharisee with a “checklist” spirituality, and freely criticized all who failed to meet my standards. In short, I was very *un-gracious*. I even fancied myself a “seeker” and further set myself apart from the crowd who I considered religious hypocrites. My search for “true religion” took me down a path of futility, as I sought holiness through works. I studied doctrines and wrote tracts. I preached the “party line” and “kept the ordinances” as I felt they were delivered. I just knew that my strict adherence to the Word somehow obligated God to accept me and to reward me with eternal life.

And yet, my besetting sins persisted. These sins brought me in tears to the mercy seat so many times; but each time victory was shorter...each time mercy was increasingly overshadowed by guilt, condemnation, and feelings that I was just not good enough to be His disciple. In the mold of a true *legalist*, I pledged to try harder, work more, and increase my efforts to gaining the prize...only to fall again and again, and question my faith. I was asleep spiritually and needed a wake-up call. For me, that call was God’s marvelous grace! It was inconceivable to me that Jesus had already paid the price for my sins on the cross, and that my salvation could not be earned by works.

We love to hear the testimonies of sinners who were transformed by God’s wondrous grace...leaving sinful lifestyles and sordid pasts. But what about those who are raised in good Christian homes, with loving parents who are regular church-going members? Those who continue in the “straighter than the other guy” path, but with just enough religion to be miserable? Those yearning for the world, but condemned by their consciences? Those who possess zeal, but not according to knowledge? Most

blatant sinners know that they are living in a sinful and lost condition. But the soul that lives under a yoke of meritorious works and legalism may not recognize their distance from God. This is very dangerous. Theirs are lives of delusion; they perceive themselves as being righteous and see no need to awaken from their slumber. Brethren, there are many today who fit my description. God will send whatever is needed to awaken each slumbering saint. For me, it was a *grace awakening!* By the blessed understanding of His precious *grace*, God breathed new life into me and made these “dry bones” to walk again. Hallelujah!

In 1999, after 30 years of membership in a mainline denomination, the Lord called my family out of that group. We joined with three other families who also felt called out of that denomination. We all felt the Lord leading us in a radically different direction, and sensed that the Spirit was at work in our hearts. In December 2001, we purposed to study the errors of Sabbatarianism. I looked through a sale catalog for a certain book on the Sabbath that I recalled seeing. As I scanned the offerings, the Lord directed my eyes to a book titled *Amazing Grace* by Charles B. Hodge (Nashville, TN; 20th Century Christian; 1984). I have no doubt that our gracious Lord moved me through His Spirit to purchase this book. This was the blessed beginning to my *grace awakening!* That may not sound very astonishing to you. But let me explain that the particular denomination that I was formerly associated with does not openly teach and embrace the subject of grace. It is merely “God’s unmerited favor.” They teach that God confers salvation upon a gospel subject upon his faith, repentance, confession, and baptism “for remission of sins” (with salvation coming only after the water). So, any mention of grace might be construed as espousing salvation by grace (or “faith only” as they referred to it). Therefore, if a preacher spent 5 minutes talking about grace,

he had better spend 20 minutes qualifying his remarks to remove any doubts that might arise!

The Lord placed a burden on my heart to study *grace* and to know all that I could about it. The subject of grace had beckoned me on

As a professing Christian for 35 years, I had a form of godliness but denied the power thereof. Although I attended services regularly, preached sermons and believed I was born again, I was in fact *lifeless*. My heart was empty and my eyes were dry. I was a self-righteous Pharisee with a “checklist” spirituality...

several occasions, but the demands of my job, and other things (...namely Satan!) prevented me from looking into this. The afore mentioned book served to whet my appetite for all that I could find on the subject of grace. One tremendous turning point in my heart was a taped sermon by Brother Denny Kenaston entitled “The Spirit of Law and the Spirit of Grace.” My son had listened to this tape three years earlier, during our move from Texas to Idaho to join the home fellowship. Seeing my enthusiasm for the subject of grace, he found the tape and asked me to listen to it. Total conviction with every word brought me to tears, as I identified with the cold mind of a legalist who was trying to earn his salvation! I had been living under the spirit of the law, trying to earn my reward and holding God a debtor. Being made free from the law by the blood of Jesus, I had turned the perfect law of liberty into a new version of the law that must be kept with the same lifeless rigidity! I frustrated the grace of God! I began to understand for the first time in my Christian walk that we are saved 100% by God’s glorious grace, and that I must produce fruits from a heart of appreciation for what He has done for me, rather than trying to “earn my crown.” In Christ, death has been overwhelmed by victory! Praise God that because of His death and resurrection I now have life! What’s more, I have sufficient grace in time of need, and grace to have victory over besetting sins through the

blood of the Lamb! The new-found freedom from the bondage of law is a blessing, and the heaviness of guilt and condemnation is no longer my master. The Lord's providence continued, as a dear sister in Washington told us we had to hear some tapes by a preacher from India named Zac Poonen. Six tapes later, the "awakening" was becoming more like a flood-light into my dark soul.

Scriptures that I had read for years suddenly leaped from the pages with a freshness and vitality that I never knew before. I prayed for wisdom and understanding and the Spirit opened the Word to my family. I could not read enough about grace. Not typically known as an avid reader, I devoured several books on grace. The Spirit graciously showed me that "when you eat fish, you need to watch out for the bones." There are a lot of bones out there, in the form of licentiousness or "cheap grace." Grace is not cheap. It cost Jesus His very life, and must cost us our life! When the Lord shows you something that thrills your heart like grace thrilled mine, you cannot be quiet. As Peter proclaimed before the council, "For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard," (Acts 4:20). The Lord led me to share

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Brother Denny's sermon on "The Spirit of Law and the Spirit of Grace" with our fellowship. The Holy Spirit flooded our souls with waves of conviction. Bless God! Over the next few weeks I was led to share five sermons on the subject of grace with our small group. At that time, I did not fully understand salvation by grace, but shared what I had received thus far. I cannot adequately describe the change I felt in my life after the first sharing of this great truth! Grace

began to yield fruits in my life as I learned to abide in the Vine. Praise God, for the first time in my life I experienced victory over a certain besetting sin and I felt closer to God than I had in the previous 35 years! I felt God drawing me by His grace and by His Spirit. My Christian walk was fresh and new. It had a power not felt before. There are so many exciting truths connected with the subject of grace. I only want to share a few points at this juncture, namely, the ones that would speak primarily to any reader with a works mentality and legalistic background similar to mine. It is my prayer that God would use these few thoughts as an awakening point for your lives.

1. God is not moved by the deeds that we do.

Perhaps the most profound thought to me, regarding grace, was that there was absolutely nothing that I could do to earn salvation. After all "*if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?*" (1 Peter 4:18).

Sobering thought! Sadly, it is a highly motivating thought for brethren caught on a performance treadmill. God's grace showed me that I am a sinner, and can never live a life of perfection that would merit God's reward. To *earn* my salvation, I would have to be able to perfectly follow Matthew 22:37-39

"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." Or perhaps, "*Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world*" (James 1:27). I would not want to stake my soul's abode upon fulfill-

ing these to the letter. I realized that all the works that I could muster would only be my “reasonable service.” Jesus gives the parable of the landowner to teach that God does not open His heart and extend His power to His people simply because they have done their duty.

*But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat? And will not rather say unto him, Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink? **Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him?** I trow not. So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: **we have done that which was our duty to do.** Luke 17:7-10*

The master does not invite the servants to his table, and furthermore does not thank them for their work! Jesus points out that the servants were merely doing their duty, and no more. Let’s make a modern analogy. Suppose I take my family to a nice restaurant and we all order our meal. We are served by a waitress who provides outstanding service. When she brings our food, she pulls up a chair and begins to eat with us! Just because she served us well doesn’t earn her a place at our table! Jesus is saying the same thing...dutiful obedience does not merit us heaven. Jesus is speaking this parable to his disciples. The lesson that He taught His disciples was that obedience—however great its measure or duration—does not qualify a person for heaven or make them worthy of Divine acceptance. Our works do not obligate God to love us! Acceptance of God’s *grace* moves God to embrace us!

The Apostle Paul speaks of this issue in Romans 11:6 “*And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.*” This passage shows how mutually exclusive are *meritorious* works and *God’s* grace. It is either one or the other, not 50% us and 50% God. This is true in our justification, our sanctification and our ultimate glorification—it is by *grace* and not by works. God is not

moved or obligated by our works, because Jesus paid the price already. Ephesians 2:4-7 “*But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, **(by grace ye are saved;)** and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: that in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.*” If our justification or our continued sanctification were by works, then our flesh would have reason to boast. Grace keeps us from that. Ephesians 2:8-9 “*For **by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast.*** John tells us that we have absolutely no part in our salvation or sanctification. John 1:12-13 “*But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born, **not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.***” He wants His children to walk by faith in grace, not by meritorious performance.

This is exactly what Paul condemned in the Galatians: “*Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?*” (Galatians 3:3).

The amazing thing about grace is that when I pray to the God of the universe, He looks down and does not see the sinner that I am. Nor does He see a man that is deficient and lacking, a man that has so far to go and so many works to perform that he will never satisfy the righteousness that His holiness demands. Instead, brothers, God looks at me and sees the sinless perfection of Jesus Christ who died for me. That is the only way He can look upon me! Only when I am covered by the precious blood of the sinless Lamb of God can I come into the presence of a Holy God. And it is only by God’s grace that this can happen...not by my works, not by my penance, not by might, but by Jesus! Would to God that I could adequately express how liberating this fact is to a works-mentality Christian who is laden with guilt and feelings of inadequacy! Grace sets us free, and our gratitude leads us happily to be the Lord’s slave.

2. Grace Empowers Us to Live Victorious Lives!

Another part of my *grace awakening* was a deeper understanding of what grace is. Again, I perceived grace as simply God's unmerited favor. Period. That was a nice, tidy, theological truth that was appreciated but never fully realized. The Lord revealed to me that there is more to grace than this. Grace is empowering! It gives us the ability to overcome sin and live holy lives before God. I was relying completely on God's *mercy* when I sinned, but did not understand that it is God's *grace* that could keep me from falling! Scripture tells us that "*grace and truth came by Jesus Christ*" (John 1:17), and that Jesus came to "*save his people from their sins*" (Matt 1:21). The grace and truth that Jesus brought give us the power to overcome! Praise God! In the New Testament, in addition to being His *unspeakable gift*, grace is also the "*divine influence upon the heart and its reflection in the life*" and is what "*kindles us to the exercise of Christian virtues*" (5485 *charis*). This grace is the power of the believer to live for Christ, overcome sin and have the victorious life! 2 Timothy 2:1 "*Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.*" In this light, think of grace as the following:

Empowering grace:
the ability God gives the humble (through His Spirit) to do His will joyfully!

In 2 Corinthians 9:8, we have a powerful passage that speaks of this empowering grace: "*And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work...*" Notice the totality of these seven words in this verse: "*All grace...abound toward you...always...all sufficiency....all things....abound....every good work.*" That's powerful! That's empowering grace.

Empowering grace is something which God can give in ***incremental measure!*** Peter shows this in 2 Peter 3:18; "*But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.*"

He gives ***abundant*** grace when we need it! In 2 Corinthians 9:14-15, Paul says "*And by their prayer for you, which long after you for the exceeding grace of God in you. Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.*" He gives us just the right amount—***all sufficient!*** God gives us *sufficient grace* for all things and for every circumstance, trial, or tribulation. We have enough, and we have it when we need it most. The Hebrew writer notes in Hebrews 4:15-16, "*For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*" Grace is given *when we need it!*

James not only confirms that grace is incremental, but also gives us the key to receiving this empowering grace; "*But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.*" (James 4:6). The Apostle Paul is considered the apostle of grace, having been granted life even though he greatly persecuted the brethren before his conversion. Paul knew that grace and humility go hand in hand. We see in 2 Corinthians 12:7-10, "*And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.*" God can use our weaknesses to make us *strong* because when we humbly yield ourselves to His grace, "*the power of Christ*" may rest upon us!

Another passage that shows the empowering nature of grace is Acts 20:32, "*And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.*" Grace builds us up, encourages us, and strengthens us for the fight! The Apostle Paul acknowledged that it was *grace* that

enabled him to fight the good fight. *“But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me”* (1 Corinthians 15:10). Likewise, Philippians 4:13 *“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”* This grace was *unmerited favor*, yes, but the difference is in the fact that Paul tapped into this power source and let it guide his life! Grace enabled him to live with his thorn in the flesh and not be exalted by his revelations. Grace empowered him to endure the shipwrecks and stripes and imprisonments. Grace emboldened him to confront Peter to the face in the matter of the Gentile brethren. Grace gave his letters power and authority... *“but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.”*

And finally, Titus 2:11-13 *“the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ...”* Grace teaches us to live godly here in this life! It is concerned with the *now*. When we fully comprehend just what Jesus did for us, why would we desire to live in sin? It puts Christ in our hearts and the Spirit in our life, and brings the spirit of the Word to rule over the letter of the Law. Grace is the best teacher! Hebrews 12:28 *“Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.”*

3. Saved By Grace

There is so much to say about grace. It is one of the sweetest topics I know of. To this day, I still thrill to hear it mentioned. When I sing of

it, often a lump rises in my throat and I cannot sing out. The greatest part of my *grace awakening* is that it led me to be truly born again. One cannot fully embrace the various aspects of grace (e.g., the power to live a holy life; the ability to rest in the finished work of Christ; the realization that God loves us like the Prodigal, and cares for us like the eleventh-hour workers) unless he understands *salvation by grace*. Ephesians 2:4-10 *“But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when*

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we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”

After opening my eyes to the wondrous truth of grace, the Lord revealed to me that this very grace saves us through faith! Again, the Lord opened the hearts of my family, and we searched the Scriptures concerning salvation. Brethren, it is very difficult to lay aside doctrines that you have embraced for so many years. There is a fear of leaving “the Truth” and going off into error. Your soul’s salvation is no light matter, and we treated it with the appropriate gravity. We began to read the Scriptures with new eyes and a new heart. We studied among our own group, but seemed to be stymied. We sought out those who could give us the opposite perspective, namely someone who believed in salvation by grace. The Lord

led me one evening to contact a “remnant” brother whom I had never met, and only heard about. This beloved brother graciously invited us for dinner and study. After our meeting, I still clung tightly to my former doctrines on salvation. But, there was something about this

The glorious truth is that salvation is not a *plan*, but a *man*—Christ Jesus! ...Jesus paid the price and set me free from sin’s prison. I walked out justified, not merely forgiven. God cleansed me with His Son’s blood, and made Him the propitiation for my sins.

brother and his family that made me feel unmistakably that I had been with God’s people. All doctrines aside, this family had the aroma of Christ. They did not hold to baptism “for the remission of sins” (as I understood the Scriptures, namely for “regeneration”) and yet I knew that they had Christ living within them. And, I knew I wanted what they had.

What happened next was truly amazing to us. My son Jason, my wife Kayra and I all studied specific passages separately and the Lord brought the same meaning to us all. This was a tremendous confirmation. We truly believe the Spirit was working in our respective hearts and we thrilled to compare revelations. The glorious truth is that salvation is not a *plan*, but a *man*—Christ Jesus! I beg you to never forget that. Space will not permit me to discuss this vast topic, but let me share a story about salvation. Chuck Colson tells of a remarkable prison near the city of San Jose dos Campos, Brazil, named Humaita. The Brazilian government turned the prison over to two Christians who purposed to operate the facility on Christian principles. This is not your normal prison—the inmates do all the work! There are only 2 full-time staff members to supervise these criminals. The inmates are “adopted” by families who work with them while in prison and after their release. The prison has operated successfully in this manner for over twenty years! Colson visited the prison and made this report:

“When I visited Humaita I found the inmates smiling—particularly the murderer who held the keys, opened the gates, and let me in. Wherever I walked, I saw men at peace. I saw clean living areas, people working industriously. The walls were decorated with Biblical sayings from Psalms and Proverbs. My guide escorted me to the notorious prison cell once used for torture. Today, he told me, that block houses only a single inmate. As we reached the end of a long concrete corridor and he put the key in the lock, he paused and asked, ‘Are you sure you want to go in?’

‘Of course,’ I replied impatiently, ‘I’ve been in isolation cells all over the world.’ Slowly, he swung open the massive door, and I saw the prisoner in the punishment cell: a crucifix, beautifully carved by the Humaita inmates—the prisoner Jesus, hanging on a cross. ‘*He’s doing time for the rest of us,*’ my guide said softly.”

(Charles Colson “Making the World Safe for Religion,” *Christianity Today*, 8 November 1993, 33; Max Lucado, *In The Grip of Grace*; Dallas, TX: Word Publishing, 1996, 112-113.)

The wonderful thing about grace is that Jesus died to set men free from the prison of sin. Free from the bondage of guilt. Free from the shackles of shame. The true story about Humaita is powerful to me because it shows that these men were set free from guilt and shame and despair because they realized that Jesus, in death, took all their hideous sins—murder, stealing, and all—and put them on His cross. Yes, Jesus arose from the grave, but this story tells me that I can never allow myself to lose sight of the fact that on the cross of Jesus are all my sins. Jesus paid the price and set me free from sin’s prison. I walked out justified, not merely forgiven. God cleansed me with His Son’s blood, and made Him the propitiation for my sins. Romans 3:25 “*Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins*

that are past, through the forbearance of God." In connection with salvation, *propitiation* is a term that means "that which appeases the wrath of God against sin." Jesus Christ, by His sacrifice on the cross, appeased and turned aside God's just and holy wrath...the wrath that I should have borne. It is grace that God Himself devised a way for His wrath to be visited upon Jesus, rather than me. It is also God's grace that sinners like me can appropriate this propitiation through faith in His blood. Hebrews 9:14: "*How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*" In 1 John 1:7, we read, "*But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*" The Hebrew writer says "*By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*" (Hebrews 10:10)

What the inmates at Humaita realized, and what changed their lives, is that the death of Christ Jesus upon the cross appeased the wrath of God toward them. Jesus was their propitiation. Their sins were forgiven, and their slate was clean. They had great *freedom* knowing these terrible sins were no longer before God, but were satisfied by the man in the isolation cell. Romans 4:7-8: "*Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.*" Since Jesus took my place, why should I want to remain in prison? Inmates count the days until they are free, and when the gates are opened, they do not hesitate...they leave! Why would I want to remain in sin, if my Lord died to free me from it? How blessed are Paul's words

penned in Romans 6:6-23. God through grace has set us free from sin's prison. There are no fond memories of that place.

Eight months after our "grace awakening," on August 23, 2002, I asked the aforementioned brother to lead me to Christ. Prostrate under the shade of Idaho pines, I confessed and repented of every sin and shortcoming that the Holy Spirit brought to my mind, repented of my sins, and committed to God my life, my family, my home, and my all. I exchanged my life for His. The Lord redeemed my soul from sin and came to live in my heart. By faith I died with Christ, I arose with him victorious over death and He came to live in me! All because of God's grace! Having been quickened by His Spirit and set free from sin, I now had a dead body to bury. Since this beloved brother was soon to leave for his new home in Pennsylvania, my wife and I asked him to re-baptize us. This time, it was for a testimony of what the Spirit had wrought in our hearts through faith. Hallelujah!

I cannot describe how grace has changed my life but to say that I now *have* life! I now have a new heart...a heart awakened by grace! Scales have fallen off my eyes, and I now want to do all I can for the One who gave His all for me—not from works, but from a heart of love and gratitude. Praise God for His goodness and patience. I firmly believe that the Lord brought these truths to me at a time when I would be receptive and able to receive them! I am confident He will do the same for all who seek His face with a pure heart and true faith. Romans 13:11 "*And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to **awake out of sleep**: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.*" □

I cannot describe how grace has changed my life but to say that I now *have* life!

I now have a new heart...a heart awakened by grace! Scales have fallen off my eyes, and I now want to do all I can for the One who gave His all for me—not from works, but from a heart of love and gratitude.

Praise God for His goodness and patience.

Book Review

by Dean Taylor

Beyond Humiliation: The Way of the Cross

by Gregory Mantle



“These are the days of marvelous religious activity; but think of the disproportion between activity and achievement! Are there not multitudes of Christian workers who have grown so accustomed to failure that they have almost ceased to expect success? Surely, with so much preaching and teaching, with so much Bible circulation and tract distribution, we ought not only to be holding our ground, but to be making inroads upon the kingdom of darkness. Yet we are not nearly keeping pace with the increasing population of the world, and today there are more millions sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death than ever there were.”



These were the words of Gregory Mantle. As a circuit preacher in England, missionary to India, China and Japan, writer, editor, and revival preacher, Mantle learned first hand the difference between the fallow ground of self-exertion and the rich harvest of a life and ministry alive in Christ.

Gregory Mantle was raised in a Christian home and attributed his salvation in part to the prayers and example of a godly mother and father. In recounting his conversion, he recalled his return home one evening after having attended a night service in which the preacher taught on the theme of “Being Past Feelings” (Eph. 4:19) and during which he fell under deep conviction. Upon entering his room, he cast himself to his bedside, and with penitent tears called upon God for pardon and salvation. When he looked up, he said he saw his father and mother standing there with tears running down their faces, because their prayers were being answered and their boy was coming to Jesus.

Soon after his conversion, Mantle found himself immersed in a life of ministry. For fifty-two years Mantle served the Lord in ministry, becoming well acquainted with its ups and downs. He learned to trust the omnipotent

hand of God in times of success and failure—in joy and in grief. While much of his life’s work lays hidden, an epitome remains in his book, “Beyond Humiliation: The Way of The Cross.”

Mantle starts with an all-out attack on our most formidable and insidious foe—*self*. He warns that if we are not careful, through pride and vainglory, we could easily deceive ourselves into thinking we are something we are not. He urges us to examine whether much of the truth of who we really are may be too painful to face with honesty. He also gives some sobering caution, “*Before we invite God to search us, let us pause and ask whether we are willing that he should make a through work of this self-discovery, however painful and humbling it may be. If not, we had better not begin; for it is better to be without the light than to possess it and be disobedient.*”

In confrontation of a self-deceived life he challenges, “*We may be claiming and even professing the experience of holiness, and yet know nothing of a total death to the carnal or natural life. The dress and conversation of the inhabitants of Canaan are imitable; but the true Divine life is as inimitable as life always is. Let us not mistake phraseology for experience, the maiming of the enemy for his death, sanctimoniousness for sanctification, unctuousness for unction, or the knowledge of the truth for the Spirit of truth, for when truths have once been fully revealed and been made a part of orthodoxy, the history of them does not necessarily imply an operation of the Spirit of God.*”

Mantle believed strongly that nothing has wreaked so much havoc on the church as when men who, having no fear of God, proudly parade themselves as Christians while all the while they were really impostors of holiness. He chided, “*Nothing has done so much to discredit the teaching of holiness as the unlovely, censorious, self-assertive, spirit that has, alas! been so often displayed by those who have professed to know the experience.*”

Commentating on John 12:24, “*...except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit*”, he stated that we cannot experience the true fruitfulness in Christ until we completely die. He really felt this to be an underlying cause for the barrenness of the church of his day. On this same note he explains further, “*Many, in their eagerness to succeed, are continu-*

ally crying to God for the gift of spiritual power. But God cannot fulfill their desire, for He is a jealous God, and will not give His glory to another; and to trust men and women with spiritual power who are full of self-assertion would only be to feed their vanity and promote their self-idolization and love of self-display.”

Mantle taught that the crucifixion of “*self*” was a continual process, alerting the reader to be watchful for our temptation to pride as we grow in holiness. He noted that if we are truly maturing, then we should notice other areas of our lives needing to be put to death. He also gave a caution to search our hearts diligently, and that we not deceive ourselves into putting to death smaller things as a cover-up for the greater sins which we may be reluctant to resign. He wrote, “*There is a subtle temptation, as in the case of Saul, to destroy to worthless and keep alive the best; in other words, to destroy the gross and spare the refined manifestations of evil. But when we claim to have fulfilled the commandment of the Lord, the searching question comes to many of us with the same terrible power, as it must have come to the disobedient king: ‘what meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears; and the lowing of the oxen, which I hear.’*”

Written more than a half a century before the advent of television and a century prior to the innovation we now call the Internet, Mantle warned Christians of his day not to fall prey to the lust of the flesh, and gave some strong words concerning the dangers of seeking gratification through self-indulgence and entertainment. He said, “*Think over the grim catalogue of Old Testament saints, and of New Testament saints too, who have fallen through the lust of the eyes. Let us not gratify this desire in any measure in even glancing at the poisoned pictures, and the poisoned literature which are thrust upon us today, and which are utterly unworthy of admission into Christian homes. It is a thousand times better to keep the heart pure, to have ‘nothing between,’ even though it means ignorance of a book over which the world has, for a few brief days, gone mad.*”

Mantle’s overriding message was that the end result of a self-crucified life should not culminate in an idle, cloistered mysticism but rather, a life of fruitful service and action, led by

continued on page 35



Precious Letters from Our Readers

We thank God for the many letters of counsel and encouragement we have been receiving. It is the only way we can evaluate our progress. Keep them coming. Our desire is to foster a free flow of edification, inspiration and burden from us to you, and you to us. This way we can pass some of the blessings on to the others who are reading. We would love to hear from you in any of the following ways:

- A meaningful lesson in family devotions that you can pass on to other fathers.
- A testimony for “The Blessing Corner” of 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.

Waiting to hear... --The Editors

Greetings in the Wonderful Name of Jesus,

I am thankful for your ministry, in all its aspects: the tape ministry, the magazines, and the missions. I was quite touched by the Nolt family’s story of God’s strength and faithfulness through a very difficult time in my life in the past year and a half. With the onset of epilepsy, when I thought I was the picture of health, the discovery of a brain tumor, resulting in brain surgery, and now impairment, mostly in my vision, but also some mental impairment, I find God my refuge, my comfort, my strength.

Thank you for your magazine. In the mental state I have been in, with the surgery and now the medication, it is so good to be nourished by and strengthened by the truth. It does take me a while longer to read now, because of my loss of vision. I hope you never find it necessary to change the

font you use. It is possible for me to read it, because it is printed on nice white paper, and there is enough space between the letters, words and lines, so I am not as likely to lose my place on the page.

Georgia



Dear All at Charity Christian,

We are so thankful that God brought your ministry into our lives several years ago.

God has used it in many ways to grow our hearts.

I wanted to encourage you and remind you that your ministry blesses many more people in many other denominations than you may realize.

Our family does not attend a ministry or church like your publications talk about, nor do we wear head coverings, but with all of that in mind, we are so touched, encouraged, and inspired to grow and grow by

your tapes and publications.

We have learned and been challenged to love each other with God’s love and to raise our children with such a different standard than our peers have!!

I was so grateful for the article in your last Remnant (May-June?) about the lady who is learning the joys of releasing her controlling words and questions and honoring her husband more. It blesses me so much to learn from the women who write. Especially those that write about loving and submitting to their ‘own’ husbands and loving and training their children. Our children are better and more secure because of it.

Most importantly I wanted to encourage you that your ministry for our Lord and Savior touches lives who you would never imagined. Through your faithfulness and convictions, you are changing people who thought their

Christian faith was just fine where it was.

Thank you for all you do! Thank you for your love and thank you for touching my life continually.

South Dakota



Dear Remnant,

Just want to write to say that our family has been blessed by your ministry. Thank you for your tapes and your Heartbeat of the Remnant. I especially appreciate the Blessing Corner, Book Reviews, and articles about revival.

Alaska



Dear Remnant staff,

Warm greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Heartbeat of The Remnant is a wonderful publication providing encouragement,

admonishment and inspiration. Thank you for rising up to the call, and speaking truth and love to God's people.

Your articles and stories are often so convicting and insightful. Reading about the power of God and how His Holy Spirit is working among believers, and the lost, is truly remarkable.

Enclosed is a gift of money to further the ministry of God's work and His kingdom. May the Lord bless you all.

Illinois



Dear Charity Ministries,

Hello to our Brothers and Sisters in Christ! We wanted to take the time to write a note of thanks to all that are involved with the Remnant Magazine and your Gospel Tape Ministry. We began listening to your tapes about two years ago after I received a copy of "The Hidden Woman". We cannot

begin to tell you of all the many wonderful changes that have taken place in our home as a result of listening to the tapes and reading your magazine. We read the Bible daily, pray regularly as a family, I have become more submissive, more modest, and wear the women's headship veiling. As a man, the Remnant is a much needed periodical to help strengthen my husband's convictions. He has truly become a man of God. We have even begun to doubt our "salvation experience" prior to July 2001. We read each issue over and over, gleaning new insight each time as the Lord brings home a lesson. We can't say enough to encourage you to keep sending out the truth! We live too far from a Charity Church to fellowship so the magazine is a way of keeping in contact with your ministry.

Georgia



continued from the Book Review Beyond Humiliation: The Way of the Cross by Gregory Mantle

God. The following passage best summarizes the heart of his cry: "Fullness of life will certainly result in activity and intensity. The man who is really united to Jesus has his own life destroyed out of him and the life of Christ communicated to him. The life that Christ reproduces in us cannot be idle, unsympathetic, cold, parsimonious, or seclusive from men's joys and sorrows... There ought to be no room for the objection that this life of perfect union with a risen Saviour leads to an introspective and largely meditative life. It is difficult to detect anything that is introspective in the lives of George Fox and John Wesley, for example after they had entered into resurrection-life... God is not the God of the dead, but of the living, and this newness of life is the crowning joy of union with the risen Jesus. We blun-

der when we make the mystic grave the goal; for we are the children of the resurrection, and the goal is life so unspeakably energizing, fresh, free, and joyous, as that words fail to describe its blessedness."

Unfortunately, this book is now out of print. However, I did find a few copies available through:

Rare Christian Books

19275 Highway 28

Dixon, MO 65459 USA

Phone/Fax (573) 336-7316



Parental Love

Though I speak the words of God to my children,
and have not love, I am a sounding brass.

Though I spank my children with consistent diligence,
and have not love, I am nothing.

If I have all the right standards, and enforce them religiously,
and separate my family from all evil,
and have not love, it profiteth me nothing.

Though I have made many sacrifices for my children,
if I have not love, it profiteth me nothing.

Love suffereth long, and is kind to the children.
Love is not easily provoked by the children.
Love beareth all things, and believeth all things for the children.
Love hopeth all things, and endureth all things for the children.
Love never fails.

The Heartbeat of
The Remnant

Charity Christian Fellowship

PUBLICATION OFFICE

400 W Main St Ste 1 • Ephrata, PA 17522

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Nonprofit
U.S. Postage
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Ephrata, PA
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