

"Holding fast the Faithful Word . . ."



The Word and Work



"Holding forth the Word of Life."

MAY, 2002

Got Obedience?

You don't really *love* God
if you don't love His *authority*;
and you don't really *trust* God
if you don't trust His *authority*.

* * *

**All God's Don'ts strongly imply
that left to ourselves we'll do these things.**

These evil practices are our natural inclinations.
What a reflection on the depravity of human nature.

* * *

We need moral power from Above:

"The law is like a map that gives our moral directions. A map is good for direction but gives no one any power to travel that direction. It would be useless to tear a map into small pieces and put them in the gas tank. The law provides **direction** but no **dynamic**. It tells us the truth, but cannot make us truthful."

(Harold Brokke, *The Law is Holy*.)

55th Annual Kentucky / Indiana Christian Fellowship

August 5-8, 2002

Theme: Renewing Our Commitment to HOLINESS

Monday Evening, August 5

7:30 The Holiness of GOD Gary Pearson

Daily (Tues-Thurs.) Prayer Times: 9:00 - 9:20 a.m.

Tuesday, Aug. 6: Day's Theme -- Holiness in the HOME

9:20-10:00 Exposition: Holiness in Peter's Epistles Alex Wilson
10:20-11:00 Holy Husbands, Dads, Granddads Louis Schuler
11:20-12:00 Holy Wives, Moms, Grandmoms Ken Preston
1:15-1:55 Holiness in the Lives of Youth Mike Abbott
7:30 A Call to Holiness in Marriage Ron Wagoner

Wednesday, Aug. 7: Day's Theme -- Holiness in the WORK PLACE

9:20-10:00 Peter's Teaching about Holiness Alex Wilson
10:20-11:00 Holiness in the Life of a Laborer Frank Preston
11:20-12:00 Holiness in the Life of a Soldier Jeff Saterfield
1:15-1:55 Holiness in the Life of a Community Leader Gary Tapp
7:30 Holiness in the Life of a Mission Worker Earl Mullins, Sr.

Thursday, Aug. 8: Day's Theme--Holiness in WORSHIP

9:20-10:00 Peter's Teaching about Holiness Alex Wilson
10:20-11:00 Holiness in the Lives of Christian Workers Bennie Hill
11:20-12:00 Holiness in the Lives of Elders & Deacons J. R. Satterfield
1:20-1:55 Holiness in the Lives of Preachers/Teachers Dale Offutt
7:30 A Call to a Total Live of Holiness Julius Hovan

Housing Committee:

Joe Stone, (502) 477-2316; Clint Dorman, (812) 246-2600

Nightly Youth Activities after the regular meeting.

A Missionary Offering will be collected Wed. night.

Dinners at Sellersburg:

Tuesday: S.B.S. - Thursday: Goin' Fishing

+Goin' Fishing Missions Conference Friday 8:30 - Noon

THE WORD AND WORK

"Declare the whole counsel of God"

Alex V. Wilson, Editor

Dennis L. Allen, Missions

Bennie Hill, News & Notes

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In This Issue

Theme: Got Obedience?

Loving Your Savior, or Just Keeping Rules -- R. H. Boll	130
The 6th Commandment	131
A Letter From the Future	136
The Seventh Commandment	137
The Long and the Short of It -- Cecil Garrett	144
Clarifying An Earlier Article -- Dennis L. Allen	148
Voices From The Fields	150
"Dream Becomes Reality" -- Bennie Hill	155
Kenneth Lawyer, Devoted Servant of the Lord	157
News and Notes -- Bennie Hill	158

Guest Editorial from the Past:

LOVING Your Savior, or Just Keeping RULES?

R. H. Boll

In some ways the slavery of law appeals more to men than the freedom of the gospel. The slave's life is easy in some ways; he is told what to do, and when he has done that, he is through. His master takes care of all problems for him; all he must do is follow orders. There are many Christians who want you to tell them exactly how much Bible reading they are expected to do every day, how many times a day they should pray, exactly how much of their money they are to give, how much Christian work they are to do and exactly what they must not do. That is, they want to have a rule and code of laws which they are to perform, by which to keep out of hell and go to heaven.

But the free Christian always seeks how to please His Lord. He cannot be content merely to do right and avoid wrong; love always wants to do more than that. He never feels he can sit down and say, "I have done enough." His response to God's grace is, "What more can I do for Thee, my Lord? How can I love and please Thee more?" In giving, for instance, you begin by wondering how much of your money you ought to give to the Lord, but then you end up wondering how much of the Lord's money you should keep for yourself.

Many Christians in their living are just law-keepers, caring only to do what they think is their duty, but nothing more. But the Lord says to us, "I love you; will you love me? You belong to me and I belong to you. Your interests are my interests and my interests are your interests, for all eternity. Now, live accordingly." You might say, "Well, I'd rather know some definite things to do. This liberty of Christ's is too demanding." Yes, it is. As the hymnwriter says,

*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.*

The 6th COMMANDMENT

“You shall not murder.” Ex. 20:13, NIV

What it does and does not mean

The older Bible translations (KJV, ASV & RSV) all say “thou shalt not kill.” Thus some people think God prohibits taking life of every kind, including even animal life. A giant-sized signboard by the nearby interstate highway pictured Jesus and said, “Jesus never ate meat!” That view is obviously wrong, for God in the same Old Covenant law established a number of animal sacrifices. Sheep, goats and bulls were killed as sin-offerings, burnt-offerings, etc. and lambs were always eaten at the Passover meal. Many people today, believing in evolution, deny the important truth that humans are unique in being created in the image of God. Due to that fact there is a great difference between humanity and the animal realm. God’s word does tell us to avoid unnecessary cruelty to animals, but when some present-day animal rights crusaders demand that animals be treated as equal with humans, they are absurd. For instance, important scientific experiments on animals for the sake of finding cures are justified. (Some people object to that but see nothing wrong in abortion nor in human stem-cell research!) And Christians may eat meat, though some kinds, or too much of any kind, seems not to be healthful.

Regarding human life, there are Christians who believe this command forbids taking it *for any cause*. They therefore believe Christians should never bear arms in war. There are some Bible passages that seem to support this view, but the sixth command is not one of them! For the Lord who gave this command also ordered the Israelites to conquer and kill the Canaanites (who by that time commonly practiced such depravities as religious prostitution and burning babies as offerings to their gods). In passing it must also be said that other Bible passages seem to justify Christians fighting to defend their country. Through the centuries sincere disciples have differed on this very difficult point. “Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind” (Rom. 14: 5b). The Jan. 2002 *New Wineskins* magazine presents both sides of this question. (Contact P.O. Box 41028, Nashville TN 37204; or wineskinsmagazine@msn.com)

The sixth command also does not oppose *all* capital punishment, either. For the same Lord who gave this law also specified certain crimes for which death was the penalty. (Ex. 21:14-16, for example.) So it is obvious that this command does not forbid *all* killing. Thus we see that most newer Bible translations are correct to render Ex. 20:13, “You shall not commit murder.” Murder is the unauthorized taking

of human life, the “shedding of innocent blood.” That is what this command *does* mean.

Current Complexities

Then what about **capital punishment today**? Christians differ on this matter. I myself agree with John Stott’s view:

The sanctity of human life was the basis on which capital punishment was sanctioned in the Old Testament. “Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for in the image of God has God made man” (Gen. 9:6). Capital punishment, according to the Bible, far from cheapening human life (by requiring the murderer’s death), demonstrates its unique value (by demanding an exact equivalent to the death of the victim). This does not mean that capital punishment must be administered in every case of murder, for God himself protected the first murderer Cain from it (Genesis 4:13-15). I personally believe that the state should retain the authority to take life or “bear the sword” (Romans 13:4), as a witness to what murderers deserve, but that in many (even most) cases, when there are any mitigating circumstances, the sentence should be commuted to life imprisonment. --*Christian Basics*

Exactly 20 times in the Bible the Lord condemns the “shedding of innocent blood.” And no type of killing today fits that term more than **Abortion**. We know that a fetus is a pre-born human being. Even the strongest pro-choice person must admit that *the embryo “is at the very least a human being in the making”* (Stott). The command “Do not murder” should certainly ban abortion (except in extremely rare cases such as when the mom’s life is seriously threatened). I read that the most frequently performed operation in the U.S. is abortion. More Americans have been killed in their mom’s womb in recent decades than in all U.S. wars put together!

Also, today some people are **buying body-parts of pre-born babies to manufacture medicine to sell!** We should urge our legislators to outlaw all such abominable practices that encourage abortion more and more.

A complex question today is **euthanasia**, “mercy killing.” We all know of Dr. Kevorkian assisting numerous people to end their lives. That’s *active* euthanasia, *causing* death when life would otherwise continue. This is wrong, though we lack time and space to discuss details. On the other hand, *passive* euthanasia is merely allowing death to come in its natural course, rather than prolonging death by artificial means like respirators and drugs. This is not murder and we should not feel guilty about it. I’ve made the issue more simple than it really is, but I believe the general principle is true.

Now let's move on to more Everyday Applications.

Our Lord Jesus taught that God may count us guilty of murder even if we never lay hands on another person:

"The law of Moses says, 'Do not murder....' But I say, If you are angry with someone [unrighteously--for not all anger is wrong --avw] you are subject to judgment! If you call someone an idiot you are in danger of being brought before the high council. And if you curse someone you are in danger of the fires of hell" (Matt. 5:20-21, *New Living Translation*).

Thus He solemnly warns against murderous desires, hateful thoughts, tongues like knives or swords, and looks that could kill.

This is serious! How may we gain victory here?

Realize The Two Main ROOTS of Murder:

1st, Anger: Alexander the Great conquered the world but not himself, so in a drunken rage he killed his best friend -- then for three days ate nothing due to his grief and remorse. Prov.16:32 speaks to that. "He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he that rules his spirit than he that captures a city."

What are Cures for Anger? *1st*, realize how dangerous it is. Read (and memorize?) Psalm 37:8; Proverbs 14:29; 15:1; 19:11; 22:24-25; 29:11; Ephesians 4:26,31-32; James 1:19-20. Learn from such scriptures God's estimate of a short-fused temper. You would not walk around with a stick of dynamite in your pocket, would you? Neither should we be casual in dealing with anger.

2nd, be proactive. Keep alert to circumstances when anger is most often aroused, and at such times seek special love and self-control from the Lord. Perhaps you often explode when you drive in heavy traffic, or play ball, or disagree with your co-worker or spouse, or when that guy who always makes fun of you comes around. When such times approach, be on guard and *seek a fresh filling from the Holy Spirit*. Cry out to God, "Lord, I can't but You can! I'm trusting You to do in me what I can't do on my own."

2nd Root, Hate -- deep, continuing dislike: Contrast Alexander the Great, who loved the man he stabbed to death. 1 John 3:15 says, "Whoever hates his brother is a murderer."

Hate often results from unresolved grudges. A government official told John Wesley, "I never forgive." Wesley wisely replied, "Then I hope you never sin." Well said -- and a searching thought. So long as I'm not perfect, I'd better not demand perfection from others. So long

as I need to be pardoned, I'd better pardon in my heart whoever has wronged me. Jesus said as much in Matt.6:14-15.

It's hard to forgive when others wrong us. But not all hatred springs from grudges. At times people hate others who have never mistreated them at all. This may result from pride, considering ourselves much better than others, or envy, thinking ourselves inferior to others. Another major cause of hateful pride is prejudice...pre-judging others for no good reason. An old song from Rogers and Hammerstein's *South Pacific* points out that no one is born with prejudice -- we have to be taught "to hate all the people your relatives hate." "You've got to be taught to be afraid/ Of people whose eyes are oddly made/ And people whose skin is a different shade --You've got to be carefully taught."

Prejudice breaks out not only between people of various races or customs, but also between people of differing temperaments. Sometimes it's hard for a Martha and a Mary to get along, or a Simon Peter and an Andrew to understand each other, or for a Paul and a Barnabas to agree. Why? Because they look at life quite differently. In such cases, misunderstandings may even lead to hatred.

What are Cures for Hatred? *1st*, realize how dangerous it also is. Passages like Matt. 5:43-48; Luke 6:27-28; and Rom. 12:14-21 make that clear. *2nd*, as Jesus said in the middle passage just listed, pray for the one you hate. More than that, He said to do him good! Have you ever tried that? Years ago in Manila I found it worked for me. *3rd*, seek to discern the causes of his faults. Considering what some folks have been through, it's a marvel they are not much worse than they are. *4th*, look for his good points. He has some, you know. *5th*, remember your own faults.

6th, perhaps talk with this difficult person about the bad relationship that exists. Or maybe write him or get some neutral mature Christian to be a mediator between you. See Matt.18:15-17. *7th*, remember that Christ loves him enough that He died for him.

8th, seek and receive God's love for him, for "God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us" (Rom.5:5). I know a preacher whose sour relationship with another preacher was totally sweetened when God confronted him through that verse. He'd been praying, "Lord, remove me from having to work alongside him in this project." But Romans 5:5 caused him instead to start praying, "Lord, give me the love You have for him despite his aggravating ways." Within days the Lord did it.

Less Obvious Murders?

There are still other, less obvious kinds of murder, or at least potential killing. One might be called **indirect murder**: (1) Think of those who make or sell harmful drugs or liquor. These ruin health, jobs and families and often cause early death. (2) Coming nearer home, think of employers and landlords who callously neglect the safety of their workers or tenants. Oh yes, it's true that agencies like OSHA often go far overboard with nonsensical regulations. I'm not justifying their picky extremes. But notice Deut.22:8, "Every new house must have a guard-rail around the edge of the flat rooftop to prevent anyone from falling off and bringing guilt to both the house and its owner" (LB).

There are other forms of indirect murder that come still closer to us. (3) One is careless driving. If we are reckless but not wreckless, how tragic the results may be. (4) Then there are those who seriously pollute air, earth or sea. (5) Others pollute their own bodies with poisons like nicotine, or even too much food -- especially unwise eating and drinking. The amount of junk food Americans eat is scary. Many doctors believe our society is a walking time-bomb of health crises still waiting to go off. Christians should care for our bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit. (6) And what about harming our bodies through lack of regular exercise? [*Ouch! Preacher, preach to yourself!*]

The worst of all murder is **spirit-murder**: Whoever rejects or merely neglects the salvation Jesus died to provide for him or her is guilty of heinous crime. They spurn their loving maker, who also is the only savior. That's spiritual suicide! And what will the Lord say about our not sharing the gospel of salvation with other people when we have clear opportunity to do so? Why are we not sacrificing more to send the light? O Father, forgive us! O Savior, motivate us! O Spirit, empower us! Revive us again.

* * *

"War is another issue which involves the question of human life. Throughout the Christian centuries opinion has been divided between pacifists (who believe that Jesus' teaching and example prohibit all resistance to evil) and defenders of 'the just war' theory (who believe that war may be permissible as the lesser of two evils if several conditions are fulfilled). They justify war as a last resort only, however, and do not believe that the use of weapons of indiscriminate destruction (nuclear, chemical or bacterial) could ever be justified." --John Stott in **Christian Basics**

A LETTER FROM THE FUTURE

[This letter was composed by a pro-life writer and has been distributed by pro-life agencies throughout the nation in recent years. The letter is dated Jan. 22, 2023 (the 50th anniversary of Roe v. Wade).]

Dear Mom:

Can you believe it's 2023 already? I'm still writing 22 on nearly everything. Seems like yesterday I was sitting in first grade celebrating the century change!

I know we haven't really chatted since Christmas. Sorry. Anyway, I have some difficult news and I really didn't want to call and talk face-to-face.

Ted's had a promotion, and I should be up for a hefty raise this year if I keep putting in those crazy hours. You know how I work at it. Yes, we're still struggling with the bills.

Timmy's been "OK" at kindergarten, although he complains about going. But then he wasn't happy about day care either, so what can I do?

He's been a real problem, Mom. He's a good kid, but quite honestly he's an unfair burden at this time in our lives. Ted and I have talked this through and through and finally made a choice. Plenty of other families have made it and are much better off.

Our pastor is supportive and says hard decisions sometimes are necessary. The family is a "system" and the demands of one member shouldn't be allowed to ruin the whole. He told us to be prayerful, consider ALL the factors and do what is right to make the family work. He says that even though he probably wouldn't do it himself, the decision really is ours. He was kind enough to refer us to a children's clinic near here, so at least that part's easy.

I'm not an uncaring mother. I do feel sorry for the little guy. I think he overheard Ted and me talking about "it" the other night. I turned around and saw him standing at the bottom step in his pj's and the little bear you gave him under his arm and his eyes sort of welling up.

Mom, the way he looked at me just about broke my heart. But I honestly believe this is better for Timmy, too. It's not fair to force him to live in a family that can't give him the time and attention he deserves.

And PLEASE don't give me the kind of grief Grandma gave you over your abortions. It is the same thing, you know.

We've told him he's just going in for a vaccination. Anyway, they say the termination procedure is painless."

I guess it's just as well you haven't seen that much of him.

Love to Dad.

The 7th COMMANDMENT

"You shall not commit adultery."

A little girl asked, "Adultery means acting like a grown-up, doesn't it?" Sad to say, she wasn't all that far off. Too many adults are also adulterers. Here are some stats that back up that statement: The U.S. census of 2000 found that the number of unmarried couples living together "soared by more than 70% during the 1990s, dwarfing the increase in married couples." One result of that is the unsurprising fact that "the number of women raising children alone [i.e., fatherless homes] surged -- up 25% between 1990 and 2000." (*The Courier-Journal*, May 15, 2001.) Being married obviously doesn't prevent immorality. But just "living in" makes it easier than ever to just walk out and leave the partner.

Now let's go to some statistics, also sobering, about God's Word. A careful Bible scholar came up with these facts: "Adultery, which is sexual intercourse with a married person other than one's own marriage partner, is condemned at least fifteen times [in the New Testament]. Fornication, which is sexual intercourse between unmarried people, is condemned at least eighteen times" (William Barclay, *Ethics in a Permissive Society*).

For those who are committed to God and to the Bible as His word, if all we had was the Seventh Command, that would be enough. And those many N.T. passages put the matter beyond any question.

But unbelievers take a whole different approach. A college chaplain said, "If a young person asks about the rightness or wrongness of pre-marital sex, and you answer with, 'You shall not commit adultery' -- then you have given a juvenile answer to an adult question." Upon reading that statement I cringed. But upon reflection I *partly* agree with him. Today many unbelievers have for years been fed a steady diet of doubts about the Bible and rebellion against all authority. We need to tell such people God's holy commands, of course. But *in addi-*

tion we need to explain His wholesome reasons for them, and the benefits that result from obeying them. Otherwise they probably will not stay around to listen.

For instance, a teenager asked a preacher about pre-marital sex. He explained, "I don't care whether it's wrong; I want to know whether it's smart. Don't threaten me with hellfire. Just tell me what's smart for me." That's a smart-aleck attitude, but if we want to influence young people we may need to start by meeting them on their own ground.

True Love Waits; True *Wisdom* Waits

Okay, friend. You asked for it, so here it is. Or rather, here they are -- reasons why sexual purity is smart and promiscuity is foolish.

1) **Unwanted pregnancies**, often despite condoms. Someone said there's a scientific name for people who depend on condoms for birth control: "parents."

2) **Unwanted pregnancies** either lead to **unwanted babies**, who in many cases are terribly abused, or to the ultimate abuse, **abortion**.

3) **Venereal Diseases**. Many of them, not just AIDS, are increasing drastically. Some which had declined for years due to wonder drugs are now making strong comebacks, having built up immunity to the drugs.

4) **Emotional harm**: This often results when one partner in an immoral relationship is wanting and expecting to marry the other one later. If, as often happens, they break up instead, **depression due to rejection, insecurity and/or guilt** frequently occurs. Some years ago at one university, 80% of the women who had pre-marital sex hoped to marry their partner, but only 12% of the men hoped and planned the same! Those cads were just leading the women on.

5) **Unfaithfulness before or during marriage breeds distrust and suspicion in your partner**, which hampers the development of strong family life. Here's a striking example of that fact. Decades ago when the Dodgers baseball team was still in Brooklyn, they had a star pitcher, Don Newcombe. He and his wife had engaged in pre-marital sex, apparently on a frequent basis. Though they later married, he became neurotic with suspicion when away from her for any length of time. Often he would phone her from the dugout several times a game to make sure she wasn't out cheating on him! No doubt he was thinking, "We 'broke the rules' before, so how do I know she's not breaking her vows to me now?"

6) Adultery often breeds insecurity, fear and hate in the children, and forces them against their will to take sides between the parents. Barclay writes, "It is [being an] exclusive relationship which gives marriage its security. The family is the one stable group in a fluctuating world; it is the permanence in the middle of impermanence [or should be]. It is the sense of security which keeps people sane and healthy; it is the sense of insecurity which makes them anxious and neurotic. It is from broken homes that delinquent young people come." (*The Plain Man's Guide to Ethics.*) That quote applies both to points 5 and 6 above.

7) Fornication before marriage will make it harder for you to resist unfaithfulness afterwards. *Living by principle rather than passion beforehand helps you to keep living that way during marriage.*

8) Looking from a wider perspective, it is obvious that not only individuals and families but entire nations are weakened and harmed by sexual unfaithfulness. The very existence of civilized society depends on "the disciplined control of impulse and instinct." A historian in England, J. D. Unwin, studied 88 different civilizations and discerned a universal pattern. "Every civilization is established and consolidated by observing a strict moral code, is maintained while this strict code is kept, and decays when sexual license is allowed. Any human society is free to choose either to display great energy, or to enjoy sexual freedom: the evidence is that it cannot do both for more than one generation." In light of those facts, woe and doom will fall upon the U.S. soon unless there is widespread repentance.

(9 and 10) Continuing on, we find Barclay once more scores a bullseye in the following observations:

While it is right to stress the dangers of the permissive society [such as detection, conception and infection --*avw*], the argument from danger is not in itself a good argument, because it seems to imply that if the danger could be removed, then the objection would be removed too -- as though the objection is to the attendant dangers and not to the thing itself....Beyond all argument the Christian ethic teaches that it is always wrong to use a person as a thing, to use a person simply as the means of gratification or as a way of getting pleasure. The great fault of premarital sexual intercourse [and extra-marital too --*avw*] is quite simply that it demands privilege without responsibility; it demands rights without commitment. (*Ethics in a Permissive Society*, emphasis added.)

HEY, Everybody! Guess what? Moral purity is both right AND Smart! You've heard of the "True love waits" movement. That's right, true love waits. But true **WISDOM** waits too. How we need to share these truths with our young people, who are bombarded with lies, half-lies and alluring pressures of all kinds.

Avoid Distorted Views

We should carefully oppose other distortions too, which sometimes spread in society or church or both. For example, we should not so emphasize sexual purity that we give the impression that it is all that matters. Dorothy Sayers has a stinger here: "A man may be greedy and selfish; cruel, jealous and unjust; violent and brutal; a liar; stubborn and arrogant; and yet if he practises his sinfulness within the marriage bond, he is not thought by some Christians to be immoral." That's wacko.

In addition we should make it clear that the Christian attitude toward sex is not "NO, because it's bad," but "WAIT, because it can be so good" -- at the right time, with the right person, following God's will. After all, He, not Satan, invented sex. The Lord designed sexual intimacy and union for marriage, so that within the bounds of loving commitment, sex will be the means of expressing that love and imparting enjoyment found nowhere else.

We must Guard our Eyes and Hearts

God forbids adultery in marriage and fornication beforehand. But Christ made it clear that He is concerned with the root of such sin as well as the harmful fruit. To protect us, He forbids us from feasting on the junk-food of pornography, which is probably more widely available today than ever before -- magazines and movies but also tv and the web. Perhaps it is more widely excused today than ever before. "There's nothing wrong with it; that's just an old fogey idea." "It's absolutely normal." "Everyone does it, and it's good -- a healthy outlet for our sex drive."

Not long ago a highschool classmate of mine and her husband moved to a small town out west. They visited several churches there, and then began regularly attending the one that seemed the best. But sometime later they were astounded and horrified to discover that on Sunday evening after church meeting the preacher and elders stayed around to watch pornographic videos! They did this regularly. Needless to say, my friends left in disgust.

Let's hear the words of our Lord in Matt. 5:27-30. "The laws of Moses said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say: Anyone who even looks at a woman with lust in his eye has already committed adultery with her in his heart. So if your eye ... causes you to lust, gouge it out and throw it away. Better for part of you to be destroyed than for all of you to be cast into hell. And if your hand-- even your right hand -- causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. Better that than find yourself in hell." (*The Living Bible.*)

Let's consider His words about **self-amputation**. Of course He didn't mean them literally, for a blind amputee can lust in his imagination as much as a seeing person. He is stressing the **urgency** of moral purity. If you had to choose between the two, it would be better to be blind than impure! It is better to have your hand cut off than for *you* to be cut off from God forever!

Here is Eugene Peterson's paraphrase of those first couple of verses, in *The Message*: "You know the commandment... 'Don't go to bed with another's spouse.' But don't think you've preserved your virtue simply by staying out of bed. Your heart can be corrupted by lust even quicker than your body. Those leering looks you think nobody notices -- they also corrupt."

What about "those leering looks," or "looking at a woman lustfully"? William Barclay clarifies this point: Jesus did not mean that "the wrong desire is just as bad as the wrong deed.... **To have a wrong desire and resist it cannot be as bad as to have a wrong desire and act on it.** What He condemns is not the person who looks at a beautiful person and has an instinctive reaction of admiration and even of desire...[but] the person who looks at another in such a way as deliberately to awaken desire." (*Ethics in a Permissive Society*)

Going on to other passages, we find older Bible versions unhelpful. Most folks now don't understand terms like licentiousness, lasciviousness, debauchery, or even fornication. So modern versions warn us against "sexual immorality, unrestrained and indecent living, lewdness, sensuality, shameful conduct, excess." Other terms used include "impurity, uncleanness, filthy actions, gross indecency, lust, giving way to your passions, cheap sex without love, sexual irresponsibility." (See Mark 7:21-23; Rom.1:26-27; Gal.5:19; Eph. 4:19; 1 Pet. 4:3; Jude 4; etc.)

Thus God our Maker and Judge commands us to avoid all improper practices and deliberate, intentional, lustful lookings and imaginings *that arouse our sex drive at improper times or for improper people or in improper ways.*

"But," asks a questioner, "if He created sex, why is He so down on it, so negative, so forbidding?" 1st, He's not at all down on good sex, only its bad forms. 2nd, as for why He opposes the latter--haven't we seen 9 good reasons?

He warns us -- because He wants to spare us the heartache that people experience who break themselves over His Loving Laws. He wants to prevent us from wrecking and crippling His loving, joyful

plan for human sexuality. He doesn't want us to miss out on the *fullness* of sexual delight and fulfilment in marriage!

But now Hear This, and proclaim it near and far: Even if you have broken all these commands -- every one of them . . . if you've committed both pre-marital and extra-marital sex, if you are guilty of addiction to porn, or guilty of incest, or sodomy or all kinds of homosexual acts -- do you think God cannot forgive you? He can! He yearns to! He **will**, if you call to Jesus: "HELP!! Save me, deliver me, **transform** me! O Christ, You died for my sins, I come to You just as I am!"

* * *

May God help us all to remain pure, in our married life or our singleness. May He enable us to pass on His values and viewpoints to our young people. May He give us genuine and ever-increasing love, for it is love that fulfills His commands.

There is spiritual as well as physical unfaithfulness. Through the Old Testament prophets God repeatedly accused Israel of spiritual adulteries and prostitutions, as they forsook Him and worshipped other gods. He pled with them to return to Him their Husband, to renew their covenant relation to Him. Spiritually, the Lord Jesus is the Christian's royal bridegroom. We are engaged to Him, and eagerly wait for the glorious wedding of the Lamb. Are we fully committed to Him, faithful and pure in our devotion, eager for the coming "marriage" to our all-loving Groom?

What about Homosexual Practices?

In the April 14, 2002 *Christian Standard*, editor Sam Stone quotes campus ministers at two different universities. One wrote, "Christians are assaulted here. We are called insensitive, close-minded, hateful, stupid, judgmental, and ignorant Christian organizations on campus are denied the basic rights that all other student organizations have. For example, the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender Resource Center has its own office and administrator's salary provided by the U. of Missouri."

The other campus minister served with seven other people on a panel at Northern Kentucky University which discussed homosexuality. He was the only one who believed that the Bible condemns the practice. After he explained that he thought everyone should be equal before the law, he mentioned that he "held, with the apostle Paul, that homosexual activity is a sin from which God calls us to repent." The following speaker, a clergyman, contended that Paul didn't really con-

demn homosexuality at all -- he only said it was "something contrary to the usual practice of his day." That wouldn't make it a moral evil, asserted the clergyman. [This and similar lies are being spread more and more. --avw] The main message of all the other panelists was that "you could be a 'person of faith' and also a practicing homosexual."

Let's look at Paul's statements which "modernized clergy" try to explain away. Notice three passages, and the terms he uses, and how he lumps sexual perversion together with other practices which are so -- nice? And notice how clearly he says that those who practice such evils need to be forgiven and delivered, and can be!

"God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion" (Rom 1:26-27, NIV). "Law is not made for a righteous man, but for those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners ... for murderers and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars...." (1 Tim 1:9-10, NASB). "Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God" (1 Cor 6:9-11, NIV).

For more on this issue, see John Stott, *Our Social and Sexual Revolution*, pages 189-220. And for testimonies of former homosexuals whom Christ has delivered, contact CrossOver Ministries, P. O. Box 23744, Lexington, KY 40523. They conduct church-equipping seminars on how to minister to homosexual strugglers through the power of Jesus Christ. Their literature seems right on target to me. For instance: "Homosexuality is not simply a choice a person makes, nor is it genetic. There are, though, a number of childhood contributing factors that can incline a man or woman toward homosexual feelings and desires later on in life.... We know that homosexuality can be overcome because we are living proof!"

Like them, we need to tell people with same-gender sexual *attractions* that the Lord loves them as they are but opposes such *practices* and *lifestyle* because of the harmful consequences. He wants to change them, to give them victory over perverted desires. We Christians should strongly teach and demonstrate to them the love and hope found in Christ, while not condoning sinful actions.

The Long and the Short of it!

(A Mother-Daughter Conversation)

by Cecil Garrett

"Mom, I'm home." said Ellie as she swung open the front door. Mrs. G called from the kitchen, "I've a pie in the oven--it'll be ready as soon as you wash your hands." Mrs. G. and Ellie sat down at the kitchen table and started in on a couple of slices of home-made lemon meringue pie.

"How was the youth meeting, dear?" "Mom, I wish you could've been there. Guess what we talked about?--Sex! No, really, the subject was modesty, but it seems to have a lot to do with sex."

"You teenagers," said Mom, "I'll be glad when you are grown up. Your brother seems to have nothing but girls on his mind. So who led the discussion?" "Mom, it was really different. The youth leader's wife was there, and she said a few things, but it was mostly to agree with her husband."

"Well, Ellie, what did they say? You've got my ears perked up." Ellie paused for a few seconds, savoring the last bite of pie. Then, leaning over the table toward her mother. She looked earnestly into her eyes, and said "Do you think those pink shorts I wear are immodest?" Her mother dropped her eyes, toiled with her coffee cup, saying "Well, I haven't really thought much about it, although I never would wear any that short. But that's why they are called shorts, isn't it?" However, now that you've got me thinking about it, I did notice last Saturday that when you entered the room where your brother and his friends were sitting, you used both hands to tug the hems down, as if you wanted to make them longer."

"Mom, I don't remember that! It must have been subconscious. But the reason for it is what the youth leader and his wife talked about. He said all of us want to be noticed and appreciated, and the boys want girls to notice them and the girls want the boys to notice them, especially when it is one certain boy."

"But if the girl exposes a lot of flesh to get noticed, she gets two results that might not be welcome. It attracts boys (and any male that sees her) that don't have good will toward the girl, and if the means of attraction is potentially sexual, even the good boys are distracted from thinking of you as a person. And a relationship that is focused on sexual interest cannot last.

"His wife agreed and said a girl should want her potential husband to be interested in and comfortable with her personality, her intellectual interests, her character--how she reacts to various situations, disappointments and triumphs, how she shows concern for the welfare of others, her honesty, kindness, fairness, good manners, and so on."

"Well, Ellie, this is a first. When I was your age, I don't remember anyone talking about these things at church. I do remember my mother trying to train me not to cross my legs when sitting down in public, because it so often exposes a lot of thigh. Of course, if you wore a real long dress, or slacks, that would not be a problem. Was all this discussion with both boys and girls present? Did the boys say anything--for that matter did you girls speak up with questions?"

"Well, Mom, actually, there were seven boys and eleven girls present. I counted them. And there was one boy that always sits in a back corner that snickered a time or two, but Bill turned around and glared at him and he quieted down.

"You know, Mom, I think Bill's got a level head on his shoulders. He very politely made the suggestion that 'if a girl wants to direct a boy's attention to her as a person instead of an object, there are several things besides not wearing shorts that she should be careful about. The principle to be followed,' he said, 'is to not call attention to body parts, like with shorts that expose your thighs, like wearing tight pants or blouses, plunging neck-lines, and T-shirts that have messages printed in the chest area. That boy in the corner snickered again but the youth leader told him to sit up straight and pay attention. Mom, I notice you wear shorts a lot yourself. What does Dad think about it?"

"Honey, I wear these for comfort, not to attract men."

"But, Mom, when you are out in public, all sorts of men see you and at least some of them will have their attention drawn to your legs instead of your face--and those who don't want to react that way might just turn their eyes away and avoid noticing you at all! At least that is what the youth leader suggested."

"Ellie, this was a church meeting. Wasn't any of this discussion based on scripture?"

"Yes, Mom, it was. I took some notes. That bit about a man averting his eyes was based on Job 31:1) 'I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a girl.' And Jesus said in Mat.5:28) 'But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.'

"I never thought about that before. But the youth leader's wife explained that males are more easily aroused to think sexually by visual stimuli than are girls. And girls are stimulated more by words that show a romantic interest."

"I really wish, Ellie, that your brother had been there to hear the discussion. I'm not sure your dad has said anything to him about his responsibility toward girls!"

"Oh, he was there, Mom. He did seem to be paying attention. He and a couple of guys went skating afterwards."

"Were there some other scriptures used in the discussion tonight?"

"Oh, yes, the youth leader's wife had us look up I Tim.2:9,10: 'I also want women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God.' And you know Mom, the youth leader said we might want to submit some questions in writing, so we did and they were collected. One of the girls asked, 'How are we going to catch a boy to marry if we don't look sexy? Isn't that all they are interested in, anyway?' When the boy in the corner heard that he snickered like a horse, really loud, and all the other boys turned around and glared at him. That's when Bill said what he did about some boys have enough sense to care about whether the girl has any sense, and how it really takes a long time for a couple to get acquainted--with each other's real character, and how when you marry it is a real long-range proposition, and you don't want to get stuck for life with a real ninny, even if she does have pretty legs.

"The youth leader said to the boys, 'That's right, and if looks are what you are concerned about, you need to look at the girl's mother to get an idea of what the girl might look like twenty years from now. But looks are not the most important thing. Character is. Whether you are honest, kind, loyal, industrious, and, like, whether you care about really following Christ. So a Christian should only marry a Christian, and make sure he really is a sincere Christian. Like it says in 1 Cor 7:39, 'A woman is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, but he must belong to the Lord.'"

"But, Ellie, that instruction is given to widows. Do you think it applies to people marrying for the first time?"

"That's what one of the boys brought up, but Bill spoke up and said the second letter to the Corinthians, 6:14 says: 'Do not be yoked

together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?"

"After all, if you are teamed up with another person and you are trying to follow Jesus and the other person doesn't want to serve Jesus, what kind of teamwork can you have? So a Christian should only marry another Christian.

"The youth leader reminded everyone that in the beginning, God brought the first man and woman together and said they would become one flesh--Genesis 2:24. Since their relationship is to be so close, they need to be like-minded, otherwise there will be lots of arguing and fighting."

"You know, Ellie, I haven't heard you talk so much in one sitting as you have tonight. And from the number of times you mentioned him it sounds like you really like that Bill. If you set your cap for him, are you going to get his attention with showing off your brain power and your best behavior, or are you going to make use of those pink shorts?"

"Mom, that's really funny you should say that--because the answer according to the youth leader's wife is neither."

"Neither! I thought surely from what Bill said he'll be looking for evidence of good character."

"Well, she told us that she had been taught we should ask the Lord to guide us to our life-mate, and be open to His guidance as to who to marry. After all, if we really believe that God is real, and that He answers prayer, then we should pray for Him to guide us to the best mate for us. If we depend on ourselves alone, we choose in haste or ignorance and regret it later."

Her mother was silent for a while, and when Ellie asked for a second piece of pie she said with a smile, "Aren't you going to watch your figure? Oh, maybe your boyfriend might want to check me out to see what you will look like in twenty years. Maybe I'd better watch my figure for your sake! Seriously, now, what are you going to do with those shorts? You paid more than twenty dollars for them."

"I don't know, Mom, really. I thought about putting them in the clothes closet at church, but that would be inviting someone else to dress immodestly. I guess I'll have to throw them out unless you want to make a rag out of them--they are 50% cotton. And then I am going down to Goodies and look for some shorts that reach my knees. Can I have an advance on my allowance?"

"Maybe we both need to get some longer shorts. We'll go shopping after payday. I just thought of something else, Ellie. Do you remember last summer when your daddy fussed at you for lying out in the back yard to get a sun-tan? I guess he was thinking of the possibility that those men and boys who walked by in the alley would be tempted to think wrong thoughts about you. I was just reading Romans 14:13. It says, 'Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.'

"Is that what I was doing? Oh, dear, I was being immodest, wasn't I! From now on I fully intend to be more careful."

"Me too, Ellie," said Mom.

Clarifying An Earlier Article

Dennis L. Allen

Two esteemed brothers have written expressing their concern and disagreeing with the thrust of the article "Islam and Christian Militarism," by Don McCurry, which appeared in Feb. W&W -- a missionary issue. Since others may have also been disturbed by the article we felt that we should explain why the article was included and what we understand the author's purpose to be.

The article was an excerpt from a book about winning Muslims to Christ entitled *Healing the Broken Family of Abraham: New Life for Muslims*. The author is trying to help us look at Christendom as Muslims see us. He also interprets history from this perspective. This does not mean that even he thinks this perspective is accurate or fair. I think it is unfortunate that he passed over the centuries of the ruthless Muslim invasion and occupation of Europe before the Crusades. They certainly explain although they do not justify the Crusades. Although I personally do not agree with every viewpoint of Don McCurry, the article was helpful to me in enabling me to understand how the Muslim world views not only the U.S. but Christians and Christian missions.

It is possible that McCurry does not see the place of Israel in Bible prophecy as we see it. However, in fairness to him his purpose in the article was not to deal with this question, but to help us to get a better understanding of the way Muslims see the world, so that we might approach them as Christ would without a lot of baggage that would turn them off. It also reminds us that although we love our country and pray for our rulers we need to remind ourselves continually that our first allegiance is to the kingdom of God and the foundation on which

it stands. We go out not relying on political or military power but willing to be even as sheep in the midst of wolves so that some of them might be saved.

As much as we deplore the policies of jihad against Israel and the U.S. of these Muslim nations we still need to love Muslims and seek their salvation. God is working out His purpose for His chosen people and that does not depend on our resorting to carnal weapons.

I think we do need to realize that Christendom as a whole has through the centuries allied herself to secular power. Although we do not identify ourselves unconditionally with Christendom we do need to be cognizant of the way the past history of Christendom has affected the way Muslims may view us. Their perception may be very distorted, just as the perception of many Jews toward Christians is distorted by past history and handed down prejudices. Only the love of Christ can break this down. And love is costly.

Further Comments, by Alex Wilson:

Our brothers make some valid points. But it seems to me they also misunderstand McCurry somewhat. His article makes it obvious he's primarily concerned about winning Muslims around the world to Christ. But a major barrier to converting or even evangelizing them is their false perception about real Christianity. So he stresses the root of those perceptions: Many times from Constantine onwards, "Christianity" has been compromised -- most especially by those who have used force to promote it. (p. 41, par.1)

McCurry's statement (p.42, top), "Muslims gradually came to learn that Christians were dangerous" would be far more accurate if reworded: Christians learned very soon that Muslims were dangerous! For it was Muslims who conquered "Christian lands" in North Africa and Spain centuries before the Crusades were waged against Muslim lands. But, that didn't justify the Crusades; how sad they ever occurred.

Note McC's recurring theme: The West's colonial conquests were "technically not religio-military incursions, [but] they were perceived as such by the Muslims....They assume there is an implicit link between our governments and our missionaries." (p.42) Then on p.43, "In the eyes of Muslims...." "...the way they perceive Westemers. We are considered guilty...." "Christians are perceived as being [not only] religiously [but also] politically and militarily anti-Muslim.... We are perceived as the ultimate enemy." And p.44: "They assume Christians are like them." "Muslims ... have erred massively in confusing spiritual power with worldly power -- power of the sword."

He is stressing that their false perceptions of Christian faith hinder the gospel's advance.

So his main point is the same that Paul emphasized in 1 Cor.9: To the Jews he was a Jew, to the Gentiles a Gentile; he became all things to all people that he might win as many as possible to Christ, without letting racial or cultural secondary differences hinder his goal of sharing Jesus Himself. If Paul were a missionary today in Turkey, Egypt or Lebanon, probably he would say when asked about the PLO & Israel, "I'm not here to talk about that, but about the only hope of the world, the prince of peace, the messiah who became a refugee and lived in a land overrun by foreign troops who were opposed by local terrorists, the one who won not by killing others but by dying for others, the innocent man who was unjustly tortured and crucified, but who arose never to die again. Jesus, not Arafat and Sharon, is who we need to think about. Let me tell you about HIM." Of course Paul might be killed even for that! But that's better than being killed for lesser (though important) matters.

VOICES from the FIELDS

Tom and Sharon Schreiner
SharonSchreiner@aimint.net

Fri, 26 Apr 2002

We finally arrived in Kapsowar on Monday, April 8. Life has been very busy since. Because one of the doctors was leaving shortly after my arrival, I was needed to start almost immediately at the hospital in order that I would have some orientation period prior to her departure.

We have been painting the house as quickly as we can (actually Sharon has been doing most of it along with help from one of the other wives) as the house was badly in need. Unfortunately, the addition of the room for home schooling has not been completed, but we are hopeful it will be completed in the next 2 weeks.

We are still awaiting our container from the states with our furniture and other items, but we have beds and some furniture that belongs to the station to use until ours arrives. Continue to pray that our goods would arrive safely and that we would not be charged duty.

The children have adjusted well and have enjoyed spending time with the Rhodes children (Bill Rhodes is the surgeon here).

Tom has been very busy learning the ropes at the hospital. He is now responsible for all the Pediatrics which includes a number of pre-

mature babies and is learning to care for adults and tropical diseases. Please pray for him in these areas.

Because we don't get mail very often, we don't know exactly where we are in terms of raising the money to pay for the addition or where our monthly support is at, but we continue to trust God to provide.

More later as we have time. Please remember us in prayer. Thank you for your part in this ministry. We could not do it without you.

Tom and Sharon Schreiner + Rachel, Matthew, Katie, Christopher, and Caleb

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Field Address: Tom Schreiner, Box 68, Kapsowar, Kenya, East Africa c/o Africa Inland Mission, P.O. Box 178, Pearl River, NY 10965, 845-735-4014

Bible Translators Find a Practical Way to Improve People's Use of Their Own Language

The editor received a copy of the *Solomon Star*. This appears to be a major newspaper in the Solomon Islands. It's in English. On the front (it has 16 pages in all) is a large picture of 6 men celebrating the publication of the 200th edition of a local-language newspaper. The full story is found in the 2 middle pages, "Vernacular newspaper celebrates 200th edition" -- with 8 more pictures!

Here are some excerpts: "Many beginning readers ... never really learn to read well, even in their home language. One solution...is being tried in Sa'a village on Small Malaita, where the *Aahuri Ni Sa'a* is being produced. This small newspaper is unique in that all the stories are written in the local Sa'a language. It was started in December 1992 by the Sa'a Bible translation project for the purpose of helping people improve their reading skills in the local language, and has continued to be produced about every fortnight since that time....

"Early editions of the *Aahuri* newspaper were produced with just a typewriter and a duplicating machine," said James Ashley the Sa'a Bible Translation Project advisor. He said the staff still uses an old duplicator for printing multiple copies of the newspaper, but they have now learned to use a computer to type the stories and to make the stencils... which even allows for some pictures and drawings to be included."

"About 80 copies of each edition are produced, and circulated in the village and surrounding communities and are even read by some crewmen on the fishing boats."

Mr. Jonathan Soiseu and Mr. David Upwe have been the two main staffworkers. The paper spreads news of local events like sports competitions, church meetings, announcements from the chiefs and other village leaders such as the school principal and clinic nurse. There are also medical and sanitation advice, and teaching that helps people better understand the Bible and Christian living. Villagers also submit articles on topics they are interested in.

The paper is "an effective method of motivating people to read, and it gives them fresh material for regular practice in reading. It shows a way to write and spell the language in a standard way," said Ashley.

Mark & Candy Garrett, on home leave from Senegal, Africa May 28, 2002

S. Kante, one of the believers we helped disciple, told of God's protection recently in a tense situation. He is an evangelist in a small city. He and his co-worker had set up their equipment to show the Jesus film in a Muslim neighborhood.

His co-worker was hit in the head when some young Muslims started throwing rocks. Others came and challenged the authorization papers the two had for showing the film. They had thought their paperwork was in order but it didn't satisfy the local residents. Kante and his co-worker began to realize that there hadn't been time for the neighborhood chief to be notified in advance. The crowd grew agitated and four young men grabbed Kante and hauled him toward the railroad tracks, threatening to tie him up and leave him there for the next passing train. Kante thought he might die but he told them that he was ready to die for Jesus and that it would be good if he died for the Lord. The young men let him go. In the end he and his co-worker were forced to leave. Praise God for His protection of them both!

--The opposition they faced was because of the message of the film. If it had been a film on Mohammed's life no one would have harassed them, authorization papers in order or not. They still want to return there but plan advance visits to the local chief to win a peaceful film showing. Will you pray for the Christians like Kante who face persecution every day in a land that is majority Muslim?

Wolof Bible Conference

May 1, 2002 saw about 100 Wolof-speaking believers gather in Thies for a great day of teaching, singing, and fellowship in their mother tongue. (Most Wolof-speaking believers attend churches where French is the language of worship.)

This year a young church leader exhorted the crowd, "Because we are few in number is not reason to go backwards!" He said that we are few in man's eyes, but we are not small in God's sight. Many doesn't mean right or prove it's the truth.

Although most of those who attend are not ethnically Wolof, there were some Wolof at the meeting. (Many urban dwellers have adopted Wolof as their mother tongue.) Seeing ten or twelve older Wolof men attend this year was an encouraging sign!

SUPPORT--86%!

It is encouraging to see how God is bringing new financial supporters our way. In the last couple of months He has added some individuals and a small church to our team of partners and so our support level has risen to 86%! In order to return to Senegal in September, our mission agency requires us to have full support. Thanks for praying with us that God will provide this need.

The above is about half of the Garrett's latest newsletter. To get the full story, write them at 399 College St., Winchester KY 40391. Or email: mark.garrett@sim.org

Ed and Rhoda Perozzi Aiming at Beijing! May 2002

Can you believe it? God is moving us to China.

Why China??? As we asked the same question, the **Lord** showed us these things that touched our hearts and gave us a *bit* of His picture of that vast nation.

China! A nation of well over a billion people, only about 7% of whom know our Lord Jesus Christ. A nation with only one Christian worker for every 2,100 people. A nation with enormous opportunities to either glorify God or reject Him as it moves toward colossal economic and political power.

So, how did the Lord direct us to China? Late last year He led us to an evangelical Christian organization called International Institute for Christian Studies. The mission of IICS is to develop godly leaders among students by sending Christian professors to teach in secular universities overseas. We were inspired by that vision because we have shared and practiced it from here in the States over the years as we ministered to internationals through friendship, teaching and Bible studies. We have tried to locate teaching positions in other countries several times in the past, only to realize that the Lord wanted us in the United States for a time. As the years passed, we had given up the thought of teaching overseas, although we had continued to think of some type of more formal Christian service "someday...when we re-

tire." That time came for Ed much sooner than we had planned when Ethyl gave out mandatory retirement packages last year.

IICS re-ignited in us the desire to minister in other countries as professors within the academic disciplines to which the Lord directed us more than thirty years ago. As we teach and build relationships, some students will hear and receive God's message. They will then tell others so our efforts are multiplied many times over. IICS pointed out that this is especially true when the people we are teaching are the future leaders of a nation. We dream of reaching those future leaders who will transform China for our Lord Jesus Christ by His help.

We have both been appointed as Teaching Fellows with IICS and are being placed at Beijing Polytechnic University, a real privilege as it is considered to be the leading technological university of China. Starting this fall, the Lord willing, we will be teaching both in our disciplines of Biology and Chemistry, as well as in scientific English to graduate students and professors.

To put it most clearly and plainly: This mission is too big for us. We can come up with more reasons why this is impossible than we can answer. Only our Lord can enable us to get everything done on such short notice, move halfway around the world, adjust to a new culture, plan and carry out lessons in a language that is only marginally familiar to our students, begin to learn a new language ourselves, and still find the energy and stability to minister to our students for the Lord. We need your prayer support so that we may take advantage of the opportunities the Lord will give us in Beijing.

We are grateful that this university can afford to provide a salary that will cover some of our living costs in China (though it is small by American standards), an apartment, and our airfare. We will also use the small amount of money that we get from Ed's retirement from Ethyl to help with these expenses.

However, there are things for which we need to raise some money: ministry resources, computers, books, supplies, etc. IICS has helped us develop a budget that shows that we need to raise about \$19,000 in support for this coming year. The wonderful thing is that there is a foundation that has agreed to match every \$2 we raise with \$1! This will significantly multiply your donation to our ministry.

IICS

P.O Box 12147

Overland Park, KS 66282

(800) 776-4427

Online donations: go to <http://iics.com/donations.htm> and type our name in the comment section.

[Ed and Rhoda taught at Southeastern Christian College for some years.]

"Dream Becomes Reality"

(March 11 - 20, 2002)

by Bennie Hill

On Monday March 11, 2002 traveling companion Mike Harding and I boarded Continental Airline Jet bound for Houston Texas. We made it safely to Houston and then two hours later we boarded the International Flight and settled in for the 14 hour trip.

When we arrived at Narita International Airport in Tokyo, Japan we were greeted by Moto & Yoriko Nomura who would serve as our hosts for the next 10 days. They were eager to take us to their Bethany Home in Nagasaka over 3 hours away by van.

Our second day in Japan began as did every day with Yoriko's breakfast. What a delight to share in the things of the Lord together with two humble servants of His. After breakfast, it was learning from the teacher Moto who is a history buff and has many contacts with brethren all over the world. He attributes his love for history to his college days at KBC in the mid- fifties. He also manages to teach English to several of the members who attend his house church at Bethany. Many of his students have had the opportunity of attending Portland Christian School in Louisville Kentucky. At present he is still trying to encourage and help high-school students to find their way there.

The next day Moto, Mike, and I took the train back into Tokyo (34.5 million people) to visit the "Downtown Church of Christ" (Ochanomizu) and met their minister Bro. Shiro Obata. What a delightful and humble servant of the Lord! After a brief tour of the facilities we were escorted into his own private office where we were served green tea. Bro. & Sis. Satoshi Hiruta, members of the Warabi Church of Christ, enjoyed our time of fellowship and we got to hear first hand about the Warabi church of which they were charter members. What a precious couple seeking to serve the Lord in Japan.

It was Sunday! We anticipated meeting with the group of about 15-25 for worship at Bethany House. Both Mike & I shared a little from God's word emphasizing how small the world really is. Following services around the "Lord's Table" - we shared in a fellowship

meal. It included steak, rice, vegetables, and of course, green tea & coffee.

Monday morning we went up the coast of the Sea of Japan - past Mt. Fuji to Shizuoka City where we would get to visit with Michiya Nakahara. After giving us the tour of the facilities, Michiya shared with us about their desire of purchasing an adjacent piece of property that would add to what they already have. He reported that their Sunday School program was doing quite well. They have gained a few elementary children who recently obeyed the Gospel.

We left Shizuoka City and followed Michiya to the monthly Japanese Preacher's Meeting who gather to discuss Biblical topics. Moto has been asked to share a lesson of Bible Eschatology during the month of June emphasizing especially the Pre-millennial viewpoint. The group is made up primarily of Main Line Church of Christ preachers but who are open to other viewpoints.

After a brief visit with the Japanese preachers, we then went to visit an inner city work led by Bro. & Sis. Tomomitsu Amano. They bring about 15 pre-schoolers off the street (literally) into their humble home and teach them. Graduation ceremonies were to be held the day after our visit. Bro. & Sis. Amano are a very special couple whose lives are dedicated to the Lord and are being used to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Since returning home, Bro. Amno informs me (via email) that he has started Bible classes for parents and more Bible classes every Saturday for the children.

The final day came and after the two hour train ride back to Tokyo we were met by Jun-ichi Uzawa who was graduating from Japan School of Evangelism (JSE) the next day. He escorted us through the subway system to the Warabi Church of Christ where we were met by Jenei Tomura and Bro. & Sis. Hiruta. This was our final treat to green tea and cookies at Warabi and history lesson about the work there. Jenei attended Southeastern Christian College from December 1973 - June 1976 majoring in Bible Studies and Missions. He attended Cincinnati Bible College from 1976 until 1980 earning a Master's Degree in Theology. He is married to Kazuko and they have a 19 year old daughter, Yuriko. Upon returning to the Tokyo area in 1981, Jenei started ministering with the Warabi Church of Christ where he continues with about 15-20 members. We enjoyed a delicious meal with Jenei, Moto & Yoriko, Jun-ich Uzawa and Bro. & Sis. Hiruta.

By mid-afternoon we were on our last leg back to Narita Airport where we began our long journey home. After a long day in the air we landed in Louisville, Kentucky where we were met by my daughter Alicia Rowe. Finally, someone who could speak English and who

could understand us. My heart was pumping as the adrenalin kept me going for the last 85 miles back home to Lexington and a waiting wife. My dream had become a reality and I can't begin to put into words my feelings and emotions of our ten day trip. "Our help comes from the Lord who made Heaven and earth..." (Traveler's Psalms--121) Continue to pray for our brethren in Japan.

Kenneth Lawyer, Devoted Servant of the Lord

Through the years Kenneth served in a number of churches and ministries. In Indiana he preached at Sellersburg and Hamburg, and worked at Maple Manor Children's Home as well. He also taught for a while at Portland Christian School. He married Janice Fortune, and cared for her faithfully and tenderly during the long years that she had a debilitating terminal disease.

Randy Coultas writes that at the time of Kenneth's death he "was the minister at the Hayden's Grove and the Oak Grove Churches of Christ. He had moved to Louisiana in 1992 when he married Betty Phillips. He began working with the area churches right away. They attended the Amite Church where he was the song leader. Soon after that the Denham Springs Church needed a pulpit minister, and Kenneth made the journey over to help them out. Then the Big Creek Church needed help and along comes Kenneth to help them. He spoke there for awhile and when a young man was hired Kenneth took him under his wing and worked with him to get to know the congregation. He was asked to help with the Pine Grove congregation and he did. Then about 5 years ago he was asked to minister at Hayden's Grove; he served there until his death. Also in December 2001 he began speaking on Sunday mornings and evenings at Oak Grove. He was a great blessing for them. He truly was a servant for the Lord."

Randy adds this personal testimony: "When I moved to Louisiana, Kenneth became my next door neighbor. He was a God-send to this young minister. His knowledge, insight and wisdom helped me to grow as a servant of our Lord. We would spend hours together on Tuesday mornings. We ate breakfast, prayed together, and used each other for a sounding board--discussing problems and situations in the work. I valued his thoughts and concern for God's people. There is much good that can come when God's children fellowship with one another to become better equipped for service. I have greatly missed those times with him."

On April 3, Kenneth went to heaven via a quick heart attack. Just the week before, he had preached at the annual Christian Crusade for Christ at Oak Grove.

NEWS and NOTES

Edited by Bennie Hill

Sorry to be so late this month!

Congratulations to: Bob & Joanna Morrow who will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary June 16, 2002.

“All commands ‘to grow spiritually’ were given by Jesus to groups. That’s why we have so much difficulty growing alone.” Dr. William E. Brown (President, Bryan College)

Seoul Korea evangelism (Crystal Hardin) The last week before a summer break has been a whirlwind of closing up my classroom for the summer and training and working in the World Cup Outreach to *bring the gospel* to those visiting here to play in or see the World Cup soccer games.

Japan: (Moto Nomura) This week will be a busy week for me. At the invitation of some of our Japanese preachers I will be speaking on the subject of historical background of eschatology among the churches of Christ in America. This is the very first such meeting ever held in Japan. The churches of Christ work in Japan was started by our pre-mill churches namely and mainly both Portland and Highland congregations. Brothers Boll, Don Carlos Janes, and E.L. Jorgenson, to name some, were strong supporters of foreign mission works.

Notable Quote: “The greatest miracle that God can do today,” observed Leonard Ravenhill, ‘is to take an unholy man out of an unholy world and make him holy and then

put him back in that unholy world and keep him there.”

Be in Prayer: for this year’s Kentucky-Indiana Christian Fellowship - August 5-8, 2002. Theme: “Renewing Our Commitment to a Life of Holiness.” See schedule in this issue.

The Epaphras Epistle (Tim Philpot) The civil war in Sri Lanka is theoretically finished but the pain of over 200 suicide bombers there in the last 20 years is still evident. The soldiers that we saw at the airport looked to be 16 years old. I was then told that they look 16 because they are 16. All of this is in a country that is 80% Buddhist, a religion that is theoretically *non-violent*.

Church of Christ Worldwide (Lexington, KY) acknowledges with grateful appreciation all gifts received during May. They have been received, deposited, and forwarded as requested. Praise God for faithful contributors!

An Awful Tragedy - Jerry and Judy Samples’ daughter, Jennifer, was shot and killed by a man on a shooting spree. Jennifer had a 6 year old daughter, Anna, whom Jerry and Judy have helped to raise. The circumstances of the multiple killings were such that a long drawnout investigation will be necessary, so keep the family & all that community in your prayers. There was no life insurance on Jennifer so that has been a financial hardship. If any would like to help with this, a gift (or cards) can be sent to Jerry and Judy Samples, 1699 Evangeline Street, Oakdale, LA 71463. Jerry

preaches at the Cypress Creek Church.

Precious Freedom! - "My preacher and I still discuss these things every once in a while (my premill views and his amill views) and we still have great fellowship. He even said he wanted me to share my views in a class someday, WOW!" --a new subscriber

SCHEDULE for ANTIOCH CHRISTIAN CAMP:

June 27-30, Music Week, ages 14-19, \$60.

July 7-12, Junior Week, ages 9-12, \$75.

July 14-19, Teen Week, \$75.

July 21-26, Junior Music Week, ages 9-13, \$75.

For full information, registration forms, etc.: 355 Bark Branch Rd., Frankfort KY 40601 or 502:223-7056.

SCHEDULE for WOODLAND BIBLE CAMP:

June 9-15, Junior Week (for campers who will be in grades 3, 4 or 5 next fall).

June 16-22, Intermediate Week-1 (grades 6-8 next fall).

July 14-20, Intermediate Week-2.

July 21-27, Senior Week (grades 9-college next fall).

Sept. 8-13, Senior Citizens' Week.

Sept. 12-15, Youth Retreat.

For full information, registration forms, etc.: R.R.3, Box 649, Linton IN 47441. Or, www.oblation.com

No one has sent us the schedule of Christian Youth Encampment in DeRidder, La. We'll run it if anyone sends the information (preferably by email).

The School of Biblical Studies' Revised Schedule for Fall Classes:

Mondays: 1:00-4:00, The 5 Books of Moses (taught by Jerry Carmichael). 6:00-9:00, Pastoral Counseling (Bud Ridgeway).

Tuesdays: 9:00-noon, Christian Education in the local Church (Joyce Zimpelmann). 6:30-8:30, The Role of Women (Ruth Wilson).

Thursdays: 6:30-9:30, Church History-I (Alex Wilson).

New Laws may affect Hospital Visitation: [From the Gallatin bulletin] Federal regulations related to confidentiality mandate that hospitals can no longer freely tell us who is in their facility. Individual ministers will be allowed to see a list of those who are members of his church and have so told the hospital upon admittance. It is therefore vital that you notify the preacher or elders if you are going to be or are in the hospital.

5th Stone-Campbell Dialogue to meet in Louisville: This Dialogue meets twice yearly, bringing together over 20 ministers, historians and teachers from Churches of Christ, Christian Churches, and Disciples of Christ. They seek to deepen understanding among the 3 groups which began as one movement, and to foster a constructive atmosphere for discussing their differences, their common concerns, and any ways they might cooperate without compromise of conscience. This is not a merger movement, but a desire to promote cooperation. The ultimate goal is for such meetings to expand to local settings across the land, getting local churches to become familiar with members of the

other churches, and discuss these matters together.

The next Dialogue will meet in Louisville on June 17-18. For the 1st time it aims to also include some meetings with local believers and interaction with elders and ministers from the local area. On Sunday night June 16 at 7:00 there will be a meeting open to the public, at the Okolona Church of Christ, 6105 Outer Loop; 969-7654. It will include brief talks by a speaker from each of the 3 groups, & prayers, plus a 45-min. concert by the fine & well-known singing group Acappella. In its 19 year history Acappella has performed over 2000 concerts across the U.S. & in over a dozen other nations. Then the next night, Mon. June 17 at 7:00 p.m. at Southeast Christian Church, local congregational leaders from all 3 branches of the Stone-Campbell movement will meet together with Dialogue members. They will seek to identify ways that helpful dialogue at local levels may progress. This meeting is by invitation. Interested elders & ministers may call Brother Arnis Pape of Westport Church of Christ at 893-0342 (day) or 429-3659 to see if it is possible to attend. (There is a quota.) The Dialogue members will meet during the day on Mon. and Tues. Pray that the Lord will guide and use all these meetings for His glory.

Julius Hovan writes, "June 30, 2002 will be my last Sunday as minister with the Gallatin Church of Christ. It has been my pleasure to serve here for 27-1/2 years. "This is certainly not a retirement from ministry. I will be serving as chaplain with our local Hospice and with Sumner Regional Medical Center. These are part-time efforts. I hope to catch up on reading and maybe do some writing. [W&W

editor's note: We hope he'll write for us!] I will be available to hold revival meetings and leadership training sessions. It would be a special joy to help small congregations. My home phone number is 615-452-5406. Address is 1008 Northshore Drive, Castalian Springs, TN 37031."In the Gallatin church bulletin brother Julius also stated, "I am preparing material to be used in training church leaders and would welcome the opportunity to share that information. Your prayers are coveted and your continued friendships welcomed."

Virginia Boll Griffith, 29 March 1914 - 27 April 2002 We learned that Virginia Boll Griffith, the last surviving daughter of longtime W&W editor R. H. Boll, went to be with the Lord on April 27 and was buried on May 3rd. She had lived for many years in California, and with her husband attended the church where noted Bible teacher John MacArthur ministers. When their health permitted, they both were active in the Gideons also. Instead of flowers, any donations should be made to Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, 1300 Harmon Place, Minneapolis, MN 55403-1988 in memory of Virginia Boll Griffith.

You Ought to Know About GRACE-CENTERED MAGAZINE - Online! Some time ago I received this announcement from Lee Wilson, who is not a relative! "I am writing to tell you about Grace Centered Magazine. This E-Zine is for members of the Church of Christ escaping legalism and awakening to the grace of God. Here you will find monthly articles by Joe Beam, Edward Fudge...Buff Scott, Jr., and myself. [Rubel Shelley too.] You will also find daily news, and other articles that are new each day such

as "The Bible Corner" by Chris King. I urge you to visit www.gcmagazine.net and make it your homepage. Tell other brothers and sisters about it, as well as your friends who do not know Jesus Christ. Lee Wilson, Co-Editor."

That sounded interesting, so I took a look. It's good--& I say that not just because the editor recently asked to run some of my articles! Check it out for yourself. --avw

An Old Email, Newly Relevant
Darren Johnson sent me (avw) this message about a year ago. It has good news of changing attitudes in many (not all) places. "Greetings from Iowa. I picked up the latest copy of Mac Lynn's Churches of Christ in America and noticed that the 'PM' designation for pre-millennial churches has finally been dropped. Hallelujah! I agree wholeheartedly with your arguments for such a change. The millennial question should never have been (nor should it be) a test of fellowship. And, as you were quoted, a growing number of Church of Christ leaders are expressing interest in and agreement with Boll et al's perspectives on grace, the Holy Spirit, and Christian fellowship."

"My background in the premillennial wing and my personal views on Rev. 20 have not been a source of tension at the mainline church with which I presently worship and serve. [Darren is pulpit minister there.] In fact, the minister at the nearby Cedar Rapids Church of Christ was delighted to learn of my pre-mill heritage. The times, they are a changin'."

I know a change in nomenclature cannot erase decades of acrimony and lingering suspicion, but hopefully this change will expedite the healing process and facilitate opportunities for sharing the news of Christ's kingdom of grace.

Darren's email address: <djumberjack@yahoo.com>

Same glad song, next verse: From Victor Knowles, editor of *One Body* and a longtime promoter of unity, comes this news: "A significant step towards unity was made March 21-23 at the 27th annual International Soul Winning Workshop in Tulsa, OK, when Marvin Phillips [who spoke at our Louisville Fellowship several years ago --avw] and the elders of the Garnett Church of Christ (sponsoring church of the event attended by more than 10,000 people, the largest gathering of the a cappella churches of Christ) invited 3 brethren from the "Independent" Christian Churches to appear on the program: Ziden Nutt (Good News Productions), David Butts (Harvest Prayer Ministries) and myself." One brother said, "This is not a fact to flaunt, but a milestone to mark. After all these years of unity discussions it now became walk instead of talk...not just a dream or a goal." And Marvin Phillips said, "We've heard nothing but positive comments."

From Cindy Crowder Brady, missionary with OM-Lit.: I would appreciate your prayers. My vertigo spells have returned, and are as unpredictable as ever, and I have also been diagnosed with arthritis in my hip, meaning that unless the Lord intervenes I am looking at a hip replacement down the road. The doctor wants to try medication first, and delay surgery as long as possible, but he says I already have quite a bit of cartilage missing, so I am going to just have to live with some pain. I am taking glucosamine supplements and hope that is going to help, but they take about 3 months to take effect.

x3-11 Z:1

James R. Satterfield
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IN 47150

YOUR ATTENTION, PLEASE:

Starting last Sept. we reluctantly raised our subscription price to \$11/year. (That's still a low price considering our costs; and in bundles of 10 or more magazines sent to the same address, the cost is only @ \$10)

Yet despite our repeated announcements we recently received several renewal forms with only \$8 (our former price) enclosed. [It's hard to form new habits. Also I must admit that the Jan. issue relapsed and gave the old price rather than the present one.]

We try to keep our prices as low as possible, but inflation keeps on making our expenses swell up. If our financial situation does not improve, we'll have no choice but to up the price of our Bible class quarterlies too.