

Family Information

Food Pantry Needs

The Food Pantry is in need of the following: Saltine crackers, beef stew, jello, shampoo, toothpaste, 1 lb spaghetti.

Recently a Ft. Lauderdale advertising agency launched a billboard campaign (including the inside and outside of buses) that included 17 different "messages" from God.

1. Let's meet at my house Sunday before the game - God.
2. Come on over and bring the kids - God.
3. What part of thou shall not... didn't you understand - God
4. We need to talk - God
5. Keep using my name in vain and I will make rush hour longer - God
6. Loved the wedding, invite me to the marriage - God
7. That "love thy neighbor" thing, I meant it - God
8. I Love You, I Love You, I Love You - God
9. Will the road your on get you to my place - God
10. Follow me - God
11. Big bang theory, you've got to be kidding - God
12. My way is the highway - God
13. Need directions? - God
14. You think it's hot here? - God
15. Tell the kids I love them - God
16. Need a marriage counselor? I am available. - God
17. Have you read my number 1 best seller? There will be a test. - God -Verse a Week Club

Services

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am
 Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am
 Sunday Evening 5:30 pm
 Wednesday Evening 7:00 pm

Elders: Wilbur Allen, Frank Chappell, Roy Estep, Gene Prince, Ray Thorne
Deacons: Brian Arnold, Tom Barnhardt, Joe Barozzini, John Bradley, Steve Carver, Lynn Champney, Darrell Estep, Jack Evans, Don Gillespie, Lou Lawrence, Sam Leslie, Jack Mauersberg, Beryl McMasters, Mark Morris, Charlie Yates
Evangelists: Mike Hipes, Tom Barnhardt

Calendar

January

2	No A.M. Bible Classes, P.M. Worship Resumes.
5	50's Plus Meeting
8	"Going On To Maturity" Devotional
14-15	Huntington Youth Rally
16	50's Plus Eat Out Sunday
19	50's Plus Meeting
22	"Going On To Maturity" Devotional
30	Joint Worship At Northland In Evening

Shut Ins

Please remember and pray for the following members (cards would be appreciated): Al Coate, Helen Williams, Jane Wooster.

Contributions

Last Week	\$3895	Avg YTD	\$3895
Russia	\$145	Avg YTD	\$145
Youth Min.	\$145	Avg YTD	\$145

Northland Church of Christ 4581 Cleveland Ave. Columbus, OH 43231 (614) 475-0161

N O R T H L A N D Messenger

January 2, 2000
Volume 9, Number 1

Thoughts For A New Year

"The God of Israel will be your reward." Isaiah 52:12.

Security from Yesterday. "God requireth that which is past." At the end of the year we turn with eagerness to all that God has for the future, and yet anxiety is apt to arise from remembering the yesterdays. Our present enjoyment of God's grace is apt to be checked by the memory of yesterday's sins and blinders. But God is the God of our yesterdays, and He allows the memory of them in order to turn the past into a ministry of spiritual culture for the future. God reminds us of the past lest we get into a shallow security in the present.

Security for Tomorrow. "For the Lord will go before you." This is a gracious revelation, that God will garrison where we have failed to. He will watch lest things trip us up again into like failure, as they assuredly would do if He were not our reward. God's hand reaches back to the past and makes a clearing-house for conscience.

Security for Today. "For ye shall not go out with haste." As we go forth into the coming year, let it not be in the haste of impetuous, unremembering delight, not with the flight of impulsive thoughtlessness, but with the patient power of knowing that the God of Israel will go before us. Our yesterdays present irreparable things to us; it is true that we have lost opportunities which will never return, but God can transform this destructive anxiety into a constructive thoughtfulness for the future. Let the past sleep, but let it sleep on the bosom of Christ.

Leave the Irreparable Past in His hands, and step into the Irresistible Future with Him.

Oswald Chamber from "My Utmost For His Highest"

Serving God

GOD, MAN DIFFER ON GOOD WORKS

In my travels as a conference speaker, I'm learning that a lot of people don't have a clue to the meaning of many of the biblical terms we've used for years. For example, the term "righteousness." The Greek word for righteousness is *dikaiosune* and refers to what a righteous person does. A person becomes righteous by the grace of God and what they do as a result of that is righteousness. A synonym for righteousness is "good works."

But there are two kinds of "good works" – the kind that is produced by well-intentioned flesh and the kind that only is produced by faith. Are both kinds equally "good"?

Isaiah powerfully disabuses us of this notion: "For all of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; and all of us wither like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away" (Is. 64:4 NASV). Obviously, man's understanding of "good works" does not line up with God's understanding.

Paul, in Romans 1:17, sheds more light: "For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, 'but the righteous man shall live by faith.'" Paul says the righteousness of God – the absolutely perfect work of God is revealed by faith. The Greek word *apokalupto* literally means to remove a veil or covering; to make manifest or reveal a thing previously secret or unknown. A person will never know the "righteousness" of God until faith is enacted in his life and he receives Christ in his heart.

Paul goes on to say that the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith. Beyond our initial comprehension of the righteousness of God when we first receive Christ in our hearts; we now are to live by faith so that daily we witness for ourselves the difference between what we can do for God and what God and God alone can do through us. Again, in Ephesians 2:10, Paul says: "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works,

which God prepared beforehand so that we should walk in them." Wow! We can't come up with them in a committee meeting. These works were created before the foundation of the world. We can only walk in them. When we learn to walk by faith, then it is no longer us, but Christ living in and through us. We are able to participate with Him in the good works that only He can do through us.

Why is it that this sounds so off base? Because we have been programmed since our salvation experience to believe that God is pleased with our performance for Him. But in fact, God is only impressed with us to the degree that He looks at us and sees Himself in us.

Paul wrote to Timothy that "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work" (2 Tim. 3:16,17). This is so clear. The Word of God must be that which renews a believer's mind.

It is the track he runs on. It shows him when he gets off track ("profitable for teaching"); it shows him how to get back on track ("profitable for reproof"); and it teaches him how to stay on track ("profitable for correction"). It is profitable for training in what? Righteousness! It is the Word of God which enables faith, which when enacted produces righteousness, or good works.

What is the bottom line? Unless a person is living a surrendered life to Christ and to His Word, he is not producing righteousness. He is not walking in the "good works." What he considers to be good is "filthy rags" which still reek of the stench of flesh. Wow! You mean my attitude towards God and to His Word and Will have everything to do with whether or not my life is producing "righteousness"? Absolutely.

We have so conveniently substituted "what we do at church" for what God has ordained in our lives. It's a sad day, for we have substituted bells and whistles for what the normal Christian life really is.

Wayne Barber

HIDDEN VERSE WORD SEARCH #5

In the diagram, the words, phrases, and names listed below are hidden. They could be forwards, backwards, up, down or diagonally in the diagram. All of the words in the list comes from a certain book of the Bible. As you find them, shade in the letters you use (some letters will be used as part of more than one name). There will be 23 unused letters, and they will spell out a verse from this week's mystery book. See if you know the book and can find the hidden verse in the book after you spell it out. Also see if you know where all the items in the list can be found in this book. (All entries are from the NIV.)

ADVICE
AHIJAH
BEN-HADAD
BETHEL
BUILDING
CEDAR OF LEBANON
CHIEF OFFICIALS
ELIJAH
FAMINE

FIGHTING
HAGGITH
HIS RULE
I HAVE MADE HIM
JEHOSHAPHAT
JEROBOAM
JUDAH
NAMED
OBADIAH

OVERLAID
RAMAH
REHOBOAM'S REIGN
SACRIFICING
SHE IS HIS MOTHER
SLASHED
SOLOMON YOUR SON
WISDOM

S L A I C I F F O F E I H C
O H I T A H P A H S O H E J
L J E R O B O A M F O D H T
O H O I L E H T E B A E T R
M E L V S O B L A R R M I A
O J D I E H U D O W S A G M
N U S A C R I F I C I N G A
Y D E H S A L S E L I J A H
O A M I H E D A M E V A H I
U H H G B O I V I O O D F J
R O F A M I N E I D T L L A
S G N I T H G I F C O H W H
O O H I D A D A H N E B E M
N G I E R S M A O B O H E R

The answer will be in the bulletin next week. We hope you have enjoyed our traditional holiday puzzles. (Last week's hidden verse: *The kingdom of heaven is near*, MATTHEW 3:2,4:17, and 10:7)

- Mark W. Garner

Family Information

Food Pantry Needs

The Food Pantry is in need of the following: Saltine crackers, 1 lb spaghetti, pancake syrup, canned juice, small dry potatoes, hot choc mix.

Help

We have 20 people going to Huntington, WV January 14 thru 16, and only 3 drivers. We would like to trade cars for vans for this weekend. If you can help, please see Lloyd Snyder, Vicki Thomas or Jim Stafa.

Thanks, The Youth Workers

Engagement

The Leslie and Williamson families would like to announce the engagement of their children, David Wayne Leslie and Jean Marie Williamson. The wedding will be held in Cleveland on April 29, 2000. Please keep the couple in your prayers as they embark on their union together.

Camp Week

Northland's week at Northwestern Ohio Christian Youth Camp will be June 11-17. Mark your calendars at work so that you can get that week off, we can always use help at camp. If you have never been to camp, you are missing out!! See Charlie Yates for more information. Mark your calendars **Today**.

New Address

Bailey and Sue Barton
2233 Garden Ct.
San Marcos, Tx 78666
Phone Number is still the same.

Services

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am
Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am
Sunday Evening 5:30 pm
Wednesday Evening 7:00 pm

Elders: Wilbur Allen, Frank Chappell, Roy Estep, Gene Prince, Ray Thorne
Deacons: Brian Arnold, Tom Barnhardt, Joe Barozzini, John Bradley, Steve Carver, Lynn Champney, Darrell Estep, Jack Evans, Don Gillespie, Lou Lawrence, Sam Leslie, Jack Mauersberg, Beryl McMasters, Mark Morris, Charlie Yates
Evangelists: Mike Hipes, Tom Barnhardt

Calendar

January

14-15 Huntington Youth Rally
16 50's Plus Eat Out Sunday
19 50's Plus Meeting
22 "Going On To Maturity" Devotional
30 Joint Worship At Northland In Evening

Winterfest

If you are going to Winterfest, your final payment is due Sunday January 16th. Give this to Lloyd Snyder. He will be in Huntington that morning as it is the same day as the Uplift 2000 Youth Rally, but he will be here in the evening. You can give it to him before the 16th also if you wish. Please plan accordingly as there is a \$20.00 late fee! Thanks LLOYD

Shut Ins

Please remember and pray for the following members (cards would be appreciated):
Al Coate, Helen Williams, Jane Wooster.

Contributions

Last Week	\$5369	Avg YTD	\$4632
Russia	\$260	Avg YTD	\$200
Youth Min.	\$255	Avg YTD	\$195

Northland Church of Christ 4581 Cleveland Ave. Columbus, OH 43231 (614) 475-0161

N O R T H L A N D Messenger

Volume 9, Number 2
January 9, 2000

Puppies For Sale

A store owner tacked a sign above his door that read "Puppies For Sale." A little boy asked him, "How much are you going to sell the puppies for?" The owner said, "Anywhere from \$30.00 to \$50.00." The little boy reached into his pocket and pulled out some change. "I have \$2.37," he said. "Can I please look at them?"

The owner whistled, and out of the kennel came Lady, followed by five tiny balls of fur. One puppy was lagging considerably behind. Immediately the little boy singles out the limping puppy and said, "What's wrong with that little dog?" the store owner explained that the little puppy didn't have a hip socket. It would always limp. The little boy became excited. "That's the puppy I want to buy!" The owner said, "No you don't want to buy that little dog. I'll just give him to you."

The little boy got quite upset. He looked straight into the owner's eyes, pointed his finger, and said, "I don't want you to give him to me. That little dog is every bit worth as much as the other dogs and I'll pay you \$2.37 now and 50 cents a month until I have him paid for." The store owner continued, "You really don't want to buy this little dog. He is never going to be able to run and jump and play with you like the other puppies."

To his surprise the little boy reached down and rolled up his pant leg, revealing a badly twisted, crippled left leg supported by a big metal brace. "Well, I don't run so well myself," he softly replies, "and the little puppy will need someone who understands."

We all need someone who understands!

From "The Lord's Way"

"For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted."

Hebrews 2:17-18

Serving God

JESUS WAS NO SOURPUSS

How do you think the crowd reacted to Jesus' story about a man with a plank in his eye offering to pick a speck of dust out of another person's eye? Think anybody grinned when he said the religious teachers were blind leaders of blind men and that the whole lot of them would fall into a deep hole? What of his word pictures that speak of wolves in sheep's clothing or grapes being gathered from thorn bushes?

Maybe we read Scripture with too much solemnity. I think there is good evidence that says Jesus had a marvelous sense of humor. And I think his teaching was seasoned with tidbits like the ones just cited that made people laugh out loud.

Laughter isn't irreverent, you know. "A happy heart makes the face cheerful, but heartache crushes the spirit" (Proverbs 15:13). "A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones" (Proverbs 17:22).

I'll grant you that some of the stuff people laugh at today isn't healthy. Much of it is lewd, bawdy, and utterly warped. But most of us would do well to "lighten up" a bit.

There has been considerable scientific research in the past quarter century about the positive effects of laughter to health and general well-being. It has been linked to increased heart rate and improved respiration. Endorphins – secreted by the brain that

produce a runner's "high" – are generated by raucous laughter. Laughter has been shown to raise pain tolerance with obstetrical patients.

I don't want to kill off all my physician friends in favor of Abbot and Costello reruns. But even they tell me that their patients' sense of humor in dealing with health problems is a definite predictor of their outcomes in many instances. At the least, they don't dread seeing the patient come into their offices who can smile or crack a joke.

During the Civil War, President Lincoln was criticized for his attempts at humor. "With the fearful strain that is on me," he replied, "if I did not laugh, I should die!"

Some visitors to the late Mother Teresa asked her for something that would help them live better lives. "Smile at each other," she said. "Smile at your wife, smile at your husband, smile at your children, smile at each other – it doesn't matter who it is – and that will help you to grow up in greater love for each other."

Next time you're in a crowded elevator, smile at someone. When you get change at the counter, walk by the greeter at church, or pass a form or memo to a colleague at work, make eye contact with that person and smile.

It will increase your face value. And it just might return an immediate dividend.

Rubel Shelly & the Woodmont Hill Church

Growth In Jesus

THE HOLY & THE COMMON THE UNCLEAN & THE CLEAN LESSONS FROM LEVITICUS

Week Eighteen Food, Worship, & Holiness (Leviticus 17)

We now begin the climactic section of Leviticus, dealing with holiness, God's goal for his people ("Be holy, for I am holy"). Most of the laws of holiness cause no surprise or difficulty to a serious believer, because they deal directly with our identity and relationship with God. The next few chapters (Leviticus 17-22) are general laws as to what is appropriate for a holy people. God wants his people to realize that they belong to him alone, and are no longer part of this world.

Recall that the physical activity of eating was regulated in the earlier laws of cleanness. Now, Leviticus 17 discusses food and worship, and emphasizes a link between them. Even the earliest chapters in Leviticus (the types of sacrifices) established this connection, in that after most sacrifices part of the offering was eaten, usually by the priests but sometimes by members of the community. It is significant that God sees such spiritual importance in the act of eating. Since he does not see eating as merely a physical action, it is thus inappropriate for us to view it as merely a means of physical satisfaction, or as merely a routine part of daily life. Then too, it is interesting to consider the Levitical teachings in connection with New Testament's figurative uses of eating, such as Jesus calling his followers to "eat his flesh" (John 6:53).

God first indicates that domestic animals are only to be used as food if they are presented as sacrifices (v. 1-7). To eat cattle or sheep, the only way to do

so was to offer the animal as a fellowship offering. All that one has is a gift from God, and thus properly belongs to him. So, for an Israelite rightfully to eat a domestic animal, it first had to be given back to God. The Israelites were, however, able to eat meat if they hunted it as wild game, as discussed below. Verses 8-9 illustrate an important principle about worship, in that God requires sacrifices to be offered through the Levitical ministry, at the altar he has authorized. Later Old Testament books reveal that the Israelites frequently disobeyed this command, and established private altars known as "high places", where they offered their own sacrifices. For some, this may have been a convenience, while for others, it meant keeping for themselves both the prestige of ministry and the meat of sacrificed animals. The practice, whether well-motivated or not, is consistently condemned in the Bible. It is inappropriate for a holy people to take it upon themselves to implement forms of worship pleasing or convenient to them. Good motivations are not a sufficient reason to do so. This principle is of obvious importance in Christian worship.

Next, God re-iterates that his people may never use blood as food (v. 10-12). The blood of any creature is, literally and figuratively, its life, and thus it belongs to God alone. A holy people must learn that they belong to God alone, and thus should never take it upon themselves to consume something belonging to him. The chapter closes by giving the Israelites permission to hunt and eat clean wild animals (v. 13-16), as long as they do so consistently with the other laws, since wild animals were not used for sacrifice.

- Mark W. Garner

(Answer to the final hidden verse puzzle: *If the Lord is God, follow him.*, 1 KINGS 18:21)

Family Information

Food Pantry Needs

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Camp Week

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Hospitalized

Toni Leslie had surgery last Monday. She returned home from the hospital Wednesday. If you would like to help with meals for the Leslie's, see Pam Estep.

Washing Machine

If anyone is in need of a washing machine, contact Joe Barozzini.

How is your prayer life?

Prayer digs the channel from the reservoir of God's boundless resources to the tiny pools of our daily lives.

Services

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am
 Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am
 Sunday Evening 5:30 pm
 Wednesday Evening 7:00 pm

Elders: Wilbur Allen, Frank Chappell, Roy Estep, Gene Prince, Ray Thorne
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January

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Think About This!

Growth is more important than status; growth is fit for eternity, status but for time.

Nothing is easier than fault-finding. No talent, no self-denial, no character is required to engage in the grumbling business.

Failure is merely an opportunity to start over again, wiser than before.

Shut Ins

Please remember and pray for the following members (cards would be appreciated): Al Coate, Helen Williams, Jane Wooster.

Contributions

Last Week		Avg YTD	
Russia	\$260	Avg YTD	\$220
Youth Min.	\$170	Avg YTD	\$187

Northland Church of Christ 4581 Cleveland Ave. Columbus, OH 43231 (614) 475-0161

N O R T H L A N D Messenger

January 16, 2000
 Volume 9, Number 3

Remember God

You know, a lot of people are forgetting God. They haven't done it theoretically, as others have done through their theories – postulated through the God-is-dead theology – but a lot of people just get involved in other things. And so many people become so involved in their big bank accounts and in their beautiful expensive automobiles that they unconsciously forget God. So many people become so involved in looking at the manmade lights of the city that they forget to think about the great cosmic light that gets up early in the morning in the eastern horizon and moves with a kind of symphony of motion like a masterly queen strolling across a mansion and paints its technicolor across the blue as it moves – a light that man could never make. Some people have become so involved in looking at the skyscraping buildings of the cities that they've forgotten to think about the gigantic mountains, kissing the skies, as if to bathe their peaks in the lofty blue – something that man could never make. So many people have become so involved in televisions and radar that they've forgotten to think about the beautiful stars that bedeck the heavens like swinging lanterns of eternity, standing there like shining silvery pins sticking in the magnificent blue pincushion – something that man could never make. So many people have come to feel that on their own efforts they can bring in a new world, but they've forgotten to think about the fact that the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof. And so they end up going over and over again without God.

But I tell you this morning, my friends, there's no way to get rid of him. And all of our new knowledge will not diminish God's being one iota. Neither the microcosmic compass of the atom nor the vast interstellar ranges of interstellar space can make God irrelevant for living in a universe, where stellar distance must be measured in light-years, where stars are five hundred million million miles from the earth, where heavenly bodies travel at incredible speeds. Modern man still has to cry out with the Psalmist, "When I behold the heavens, the work of they hands and all that thou hast created; what is man, that thou is mindful of him? And the son of man, that thou hast remembered him?"

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Excerpted from a sermon preached in Chicago, August 1967

Serving God

A VERY PRESENT HELP

He's helping me now this moment,
Though I may not see it or hear
Perhaps by a friend far distant,
Perhaps by a stranger near,
Perhaps by a spoken message,
Perhaps by the printed word;
In ways that I know and know not
I have the help of the Lord.

He's keeping me now – this moment,
However I need it most,
Perhaps by a single angel,
Perhaps by a mighty host,
Perhaps by the chain that frets me,
Or the walls that shut me in;
In ways that I know and know not,
He keeps me from harm and sin.

He's guiding me now – this moment,
In pathways easy or hard,
Perhaps by a door wide open,
Perhaps by a door fast barred,
Perhaps by a joy withholden,
Perhaps by a gladness given;
In ways that I know and know not,
He's leading me up to heaven.

He's using me now – this moment,
And whether I go or stand,
Perhaps by a plan accomplished,
Perhaps when He stays my hand,
Perhaps by a word in season,
Perhaps by a silent prayer;
In ways that I know and know not,
His labor of love I share.

Annie Johnson Flint

Growth In Jesus

THE HOLY & THE COMMON THE UNCLEAN & THE CLEAN LESSONS FROM LEVITICUS

**Week Nineteen:
Holiness, Sexuality, & Relationships
(Leviticus 18-19)**

Proper sexual behavior for the holy is regulated in Leviticus 18. Most of the commands here need little explanation to Christians. God exhorts his people (v.1-5) not to live like pagans, but to show their holiness in this important area of life. The key principle is that as a holy people, the Israelites did not belong to themselves any more. Thus, to exploit another sexually, or to be involved in any sex not approved by God, would be a severe violation in two ways: first, it would be an act of rebellion against one's own status as holy, and second, it would be seizing another person who belonged to God alone, and claiming her (his) body for oneself.

Thus, the various prohibitions in verses 6-23 are all natural consequences of being holy. Holiness involves giving up what pagans call the "freedom" to do what feels good. This "freedom" is of course really not freedom at all, but rather is slavery to our bodily urges. Pagans are too benighted to see this, or too prideful to admit it, or both. But God's holy people should have no difficulty accepting this and putting it into practice. God outlines the consequences of disobedience in verses 24-30, in graphic terms. If they violate these laws, and live as pagans do, indulging their cravings, then not only will they suffer the unpleasant physical and social consequences that arise inevitably from sexual promiscuity, but also something worse will happen. They will no longer be a people fit for God, and the special Promised Land, which God has prepared for

them, will "vomit them out", because they will no longer be fit for it.

Next, chapter 19 primarily discusses principles of relationships among the holy. The main foundation of all relationships is of course one's relationship with God. That puts an additional importance on the command not to worship idols (v. 4) and on proper sacrifice (v. 5-8), which is necessary for living near God's presence. Another important foundation of relationships comes from the family, and so special importance is placed on one's relationships with his or her parents (v.3), as it also is in the Ten Commandments.

Verses 9-18 discuss principles of moral treatment of others. A holy people naturally must not steal, lie, slander, or commit other such crude offenses against one another. But God does not only want their outward treatment of one other to be pure. He calls them to have a sincere attitude of concern and respect for each other. Verses 9-10, for example, prohibit squeezing every last useful bit out of one's field or vineyard, because there are others to whom the leavings will be more valuable. You may recall a famous example of this law being obeyed in Ruth 3. Because Boaz did as God commanded, he met his future wife Ruth. There are several other such interesting commands in these verses.

Other aspects of relationships are discussed in verses 19-37. Most focus either on proper treatment of others (such as not taking advantage of slaves or foreigners), or on presenting oneself as a member of the holy community who is worthy of respect and does not offend others unnecessarily (such as verse 28, prohibiting cutting or tattooing one's body). To be a holy people, we must realize that our lives and bodies do not belong to us but to God, and we are not going to have all of the "options" that irresponsible pagans have.

- Mark W. Garner

Family Information

Food Pantry Needs

The Food Pantry is in need of the following: Bar soap, pancake syrup, toothpaste, laundry detergent, large diapers, canned juice, saltine crackers.

Secret Sisters

For our next session of Secret Sisters we are planning on encouraging the sisters at Willow Brook and Northland's shut-ins. In order to properly plan this we need to know **exactly** how many sisters will be willing to make a commitment to participate. We would like to have an exact number by the end of the month. There will be a sign-up sheet in the foyer for those who are interested.

Jen Cvelbar & Linda Chivington

Area Wide Worship

On Sunday, January 30, the 5th Sunday of this month, Northland will be hosting an area wide late-afternoon worship. Since the 30th is also Super Bowl Sunday, we are going to start early (4:00 p.m.) so that members from Northland and visiting congregations can take advantage of this opportunity to invite folks into their home that evening.

Sympathy

We want to express our sympathy to the family of Al Coate. Al passed away Monday morning. The funeral was Saturday at 10:30 a.m. at Long Funeral Home.

Services

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am
 Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am
 Sunday Evening 5:30 pm
 Wednesday Evening 7:00 pm

Elders: Wilbur Allen, Frank Chappell, Roy Estep, Gene Prince, Ray Thorne
Deacons: Brian Arnold, Tom Barnhardt, Joe Barozzini, John Bradley, Steve Carver, Lynn Champney, Darrell Estep, Jack Evans, Don Gillespie, Lou Lawrence, Sam Leslie, Jack Mauersberg, Beryl McMasters, Mark Morris, Charlie Yates
Evangelists: Mike Hipes, Tom Barnhardt

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Calendar

January

30 Joint Worship At Northland In Evening

February

2 50's Plus Meeting
 5 Leadership Devotional
 16 50's Plus Meeting
 19 Leadership Devotional
 19-20 Winterfest

Thank You

Thank you for your love, support and prayers during the challenging year for my family. Both of our fathers, my brother and then my mother returned to their creator in 1999. Without the love of God and the saints we could not have survived. The planter was beautiful - a reminder of my mothers beautiful Christian life.

Elvah and Bob Donald

Shut Ins

Please remember and pray for the following members (cards would be appreciated):
 Helen Williams, Jane Wooster.

Contributions

Last Week		Avg YTD	
Russia	\$175	Avg YTD	\$209
Youth Min.	\$245	Avg YTD	\$201

N O R T H L A N D Messenger

January 23, 2000
 Volume 9, Number 4

Thinking About Change

Two more articles reached my desk today about change in the church.

Some authors are calling for change in order to reverse membership losses experienced by many congregations. Worship seems to be at the center of the controversy. Liberals declare that worship must be more contemporary. They continually remind us that worship has become a meaningless exercise to many and unless there is change these members will leave the church. Those who oppose change want none of these things. They argue that we must not change our worship for it is founded on biblical principles.

It is true that many feel worship is meaningless, but the fault does not lie with the acts of worship, but with our failure to understand the purpose of worship. Too often we want worship to make us feel good, to inspire us, to entertain us. It is not what worship does to us, but what we do to praise and honor our God that makes it meaningful. Worship takes time and effort.

History teaches us that any departure from the authority of Scripture results in digression and ultimately total rejection of the cause of Christ. We must not waver from the acts of worship commanded in the Bible.

However, there is a need for change. A change in our attitude toward worship. We have failed to teach the purpose of worship and failed to make it genuine by our ritualism and insincerity. The time has come for many to return to the honest and forthright worship practiced by those in the first century. Take the time to read of the church that assembled in Acts 4 to pray. Who can believe that anyone left that meeting feeling that it was meaningless. They had put their heart and effort into speaking to God about matters that were important to them and the cause of Christ. That was genuine worship which inspired.

Vinton Morgan (via Bulletin Digest)

Serving God

NO, IT WILL HURT

Recently, I read about a little girl who was injured in a fall. The results were a badly bruised knee. Her mother wanted to get treatment immediately. The little girl, fearful of the possible pain, pleaded, "No, it will hurt!" her mother relented and no treatment was given.

Four days later, the infected area was swollen and very painful. The mother called the doctor. He insisted upon putting the little girl in the hospital, but again she cried, "No, it will hurt!" And again, the mother gave in.

When serious infection was discovered five days later, the only possibility for saving the child's life was amputation. Her mother, who could not bear the thought of her daughter being handicapped, refused permission to operate, and within a matter of hours, the little girl died.

The little girl died because her mother was too compassionate. Little comfort was obtained by her mother's insistence that she loved the child too much to hurt her.

Oh, how it hurts to see our children in pain! How well I remember trying to remove festering splinters from my children. I feel sure that everyone has had such experiences. After sterilizing the needle and starting toward the child, it was not uncommon to hear screams as though you were really going to kill the child. You could have easily reasoned, "Since it will hurt I will just let it go." But one must do what

is best for the child. And parents, by reason of age and wisdom, are better qualified to know what is best to do.

Just so, we have to discipline our children, and train them in the right way. They must be taught right from wrong. If parents fail to do this, when the child has grown to adulthood not knowing, nor having been taught Bible principles, such a person is usually headed for serious trouble. How sad that parents get so busy trying to make money to supply all the physical needs of their children and forget the most important thing, their spiritual growth (Eph. 6:1-4).

We teach our children verbally and also by example. A man who does not pray is teaching his children not to pray. If parents neglect the public worship they are teaching their children to neglect it, as though it is not important. A parent who does not read the Bible is teaching his children not to read it. If we do not teach our children truth, others will teach them error. Isn't it better for a parent to teach his child the truth, than for others to teach them error?

Yes, it hurts to remove a splinter from a hand, foot or wherever. Yes, it will hurt to put an antiseptic on a skinned knee to keep down infection. Yes, it will hurt to have a doctor set a broken arm. But it will hurt more if we do not give proper attention immediately.

It will hurt even more if we do not take time to teach and train our children, bringing them up in the way God wants us to.

For sure some things do hurt, but will surely hurt more if neglected.

Margie Overton, *The World Evangelist*

Growth In Jesus

THE HOLY & THE COMMON THE UNCLEAN & THE CLEAN LESSONS FROM LEVITICUS

Week Twenty Crime & Punishment (Leviticus 20)

God knew that not everyone in Israel would obey his laws. Leviticus 20 deals with crime and punishment among the holy. Punishment is a natural and necessary consequence of sin. Dealing appropriately with sin and offenses is an important part of keeping the entire community of God's people holy. None of us can prevent an individual from rejecting God's holiness, but we always have the responsibility to keep our community clean and holy.

Religious crimes are covered first (v. 1-8). God is intolerant of idolatry, sorcery, and astrology. Even if a believer in God just toys with these as a sideline, they are completely unacceptable to God, and those who practice them must be punished severely. Sexual and other offenses against other persons are covered in verses 9-21. Sexual misconduct is absolutely unacceptable for a holy people, and God does not accept the rationalizations or self-serving excuses offered by pagans. But note that God is concerned with believers here, calling them to live consistently with what they believe. There are then general exhortations and warnings in verses 22-27. Failure to observe principles of holiness results in ruined relationships, physical suffering, and even worse, renders the defiled person no longer being worthy of living in God's presence.

There are numerous misconceptions about the Old Testament laws, most held by Bible critics and skeptics, but not limited to that disreputable crew. God's perspective is much different from the human

perspective, and his priorities are also much different from ours. Unbelievers and skeptics often view the laws as being an authoritarian attempt to enforce a certain code of behavior, and view all the laws in that light. They usually view the Old Testament laws as harsh and cruel, and because of this bias, they make numerous factual errors. For example, there is a foolish, but popular, theory among "scholars" that the laws of Moses were based on the laws of Babylonians or other pagans. But the laws Moses gave were not the result of his or any other human's decision; they were inspired by God. The laws of God have a much different emphasis than any human-made law code. In human law codes, property and physical crimes are invariably punished more harshly than moral or spiritual crimes.

Note two other important points about the laws. While they often lead to healthy living, as one would expect of directives from an all-knowing God, they also serve the far more important purpose of making us a clean and holy people who can live in God's presence and can fulfill the purposes to which he has called us. It is also significant to realize that the thrust of these laws is towards the man or woman who has accepted God's authority, not the rebellious pagan. We believers do have an unfortunate tendency to compete with one another in how boldly we can denounce pagan society, but this accomplishes little of a constructive nature, and at times it provides us with a rationalization to excuse uncleanness in ourselves.

In punishing offenses, most are dealt with by death, restitution, sacrifice, or a period of uncleanness. While the frequent calls for the death penalty may seem harsh, note also that there are no prisons in God's law. One important punishment often mentioned is being "cut off from one's people". Commentators are divided as to exactly how this was implemented in practice, but it is certain that it was a severe and dreaded punishment.

-Mark W. Garner

Family Information

Food Pantry Needs

The Food Pantry is in need of the following: pancake syrup, canned juice, saltine crackers, paper towels, kleenex, beef stew.

Area Wide Worship

Today Northland will be hosting an area wide late-afternoon worship. Since today is also Super Bowl Sunday, we are going to start early (4:00 p.m.) so that members from Northland and visiting congregations can take advantage of this opportunity to invite folks into their home.

Congratulations

Bethany Evans and Shawn Queen were baptized last Sunday.

Thank You

We would like to thank everyone for the many expressions of sympathy and love, the prayers, the offers for help, the flowers, and for all of the food this past week. It's made us feel the love we share together. Your service has had a wonderful impact in our hearts.

The family of Albert E. Coate

Secret Sisters

For our next session of Secret Sisters we are planning on encouraging the sisters at Willow Brook and Northland's shut-ins. In order to properly plan this we need to know **exactly** how many sisters will be willing to make a commitment to participate. We need an exact number today.

Jen Cvelbar & Linda Chivington

Services

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am
 Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am
 Sunday Evening 5:30 pm
 Wednesday Evening 7:00 pm

Elders: Wilbur Allen, Frank Chappell, Roy Estep, Gene Prince, Ray Thorne
Deacons: Brian Arnold, Tom Barnhardt, Joe Barozzini, John Bradley, Steve Carver, Lynn Champney, Darrell Estep, Jack Evans, Don Gillespie, Lou Lawrence, Sam Leslie, Jack Mauersberg, Beryl McMasters, Mark Morris, Charlie Yates
Evangelists: Mike Hipes, Tom Barnhardt

Calendar

January

30 Joint Worship 4:00 At Northland

February

2 50's Plus Meeting
 5 Leadership Devotional
 16 50's Plus Meeting
 19 Leadership Devotional
 19-20 Winterfest
 20 50's Plus "Eat Out Sunday"
 26 Area Wide Women's Brunch

Prayers Requested

Nancy Maynard requests prayers for her brother, Rick Earl. Rick is in Riverside Hospital.

Shut Ins

Please remember and pray for the following members (cards would be appreciated):
 Helen Williams, Jane Wooster.

Contributions

Last Week	\$5015	Avg YTD	\$4971
Russia	\$238	Avg YTD	\$215
Youth Min.	\$293	Avg YTD	\$220

Northland Church of Christ 4581 Cleveland Ave. Columbus, OH 43231 (614) 475-0161

N O R T H L A N D Messenger

Volume 9, Number 5

January 30, 2000

Praise The Lord

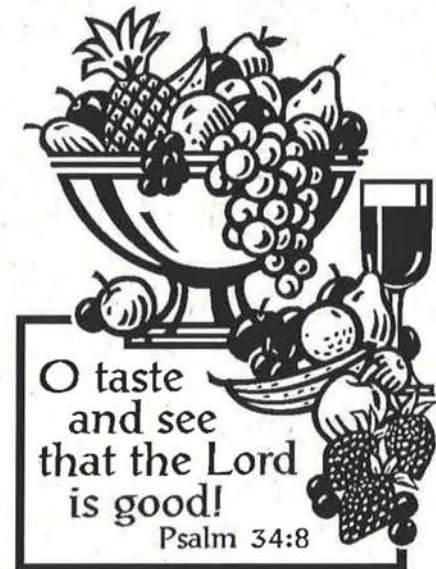
Praise God in the magnificence of His creation!

Praise Him in His glorious diversity: the people made in His image, though no two are alike; the mystery and humor in the forms of His animals; the joyous abandon with which He colored His palette!

Praise our Heavenly Father in the richness of music which rises in heady swells from our hearts, lips and fingertips. Our Lord inspires us; He stirs us to marvel in wonder at His placement of the lights in the heavens. The whole of His creation sings to us of His mighty power, tenderness and love!

Praise to the Lord!

Cindy Grafton



Serving God

A GREATER DESIRE

There once was an eager student who wanted to gain wisdom and insight. He went to the wisest of the town, Socrates, to seek his counsel. Socrates was an old soul and had great knowledge of many things. The boy asked the town sage how he too could acquire such mastery. Being a man of few words, Socrates chose not to speak, but to illustrate.

He took the child to the beach and, with all of his clothes still on, walked straight out into the water. He loved to do curious things like that, especially when he was trying to prove a point. The pupil gingerly followed his instruction and walked into the sea, joining Socrates where the water was just below their chins. Without saying a word, Socrates reached out and put his hands on the boy's shoulders. Looking deep into his student's eyes, Socrates pushed the student's head under the water with all his might.

A struggle ensued, and just before a life was taken away, Socrates released his captive. The boy raced to the surface and, gasping for air and choking from the salt water, looked around for Socrates in order to seek his retaliation on the sage. To the student's bewilderment, the old man was already patiently waiting on the beach. When the student arrived on the sand, he angrily shouted, "Why did you try to kill me?" the wise man calmly retorted with a question of his own: "Boy, when you were underneath the water, not sure if you would live to see another day, what did you want more than anything in the world?"

The student took a few moments to reflect, then went with his intuition. Softly he said, "I wanted to breathe." Socrates, now illuminated by his own huge smile, looked at the boy comfortingly and said, "Ah! When you want wisdom and insight as badly as you wanted to breathe, it is then that you shall have it."

There is much of a spiritual nature that we do not receive because we don't want it enough. But, when we desire a knowledge of God's word, when we desire a close relationship with God, when we desire wisdom (the ability to make good decisions) to such extent that those things take first priority, when we truly want them more than anything else in the world, then they lie within our grasp.

Our problem often is that we desire them, but we also desire many other things. That's why Jesus told the rich young ruler to sell everything and follow him (Mark 10:21). He wanted to see how strong the young man's desire was.

"Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake shall find it.'" (Matt. 16:24-25, NASV).

"Father, I confess that often in my life desire for other things has distracted me from my desire to have a close relationship with you. Please strengthen me that I may reach the point that being close to you means more than life itself. In Jesus' name, amen."

Alan Smith (Boone, NC)

Growth In Jesus

THE HOLY & THE COMMON THE UNCLEAN & THE CLEAN LESSONS FROM LEVITICUS

Week Twenty-One Laws For Priests (Leviticus 21-22)

The holiness laws conclude with a series of rules for the holy priests (Leviticus 21-22). The priests were constant reminders of holiness to the community. When the priests fulfilled their role properly, they lived as was appropriate for persons who had been consecrated to a holy ministry. They also called the people to a greater awareness of their own identity as a special community. Of course, later in the history of God's people, both priests and people gradually moved away from the responsibilities God gave them, to their own detriment. In Leviticus, with the ministry just beginning, we see the ideal described.

First come some restrictions on mourning and marriage for the priests (21:1-15). Since the priests were holy, and no longer belonged to this world, they needed to exemplify this in their relationships. Even in their closest family relationships, the priests were required to reflect their holiness, by showing that these relationships were secondary to their holy calling and ministry. Therefore, they were not permitted to have complete freedom in their choice of spouse. A priest's wife had to meet high spiritual standards (v. 7-8, 13-15). Further, the priests were not able to go through all of the Jewish mourning customs, unless it was for a close relative (v. 1-4). The high priest himself was always prohibited from outward expressions of mourning, and from being in contact with the dead, even when a close relative had died.

The next few verses indicate that certain physical

defects prevented a person, even when otherwise fully qualified, from serving as a priest (21:16-24). Such things as having a crippled hand, being blind in one eye, or being lame, made a man ineligible for the priesthood. Naturally, these defects did not in themselves hinder someone from performing priestly functions. But remember the basic concepts of Leviticus. Before a Levite can be sanctified as a priest, he must first be clean. Cleanness, as described in Leviticus, implies purity, completeness, and normality. Descendants of Levi with physical defects were not accepted for the priesthood, because they literally could not meet the requirement to be clean.

This again illustrates that being labelled "unclean" is not always a moral judgment. In our status-obsessed culture, it would be considered an outrage if someone would not be accepted for a position due to a physical defect. But God does not see it as "unfair", primarily because he does not see awarding someone an office as a way of giving them special privileges and powers, contrary to our view of offices, whether spiritual or worldly. To God, the priests simply fulfilled one of many important roles in the community of his people.

Chapter 22 returns to the inter-relationships amongst worship, holiness, and food. In it are discussed several impediments to eating holy food (22:1-9), specifying when it was not permissible for a priest to eat a portion of a sacrifice to which he otherwise would have been entitled. Then there are also conditions on who may eat the holy food (22:10-16). God gave the priest's portion to him and his family, but did not want any doubt or temptation to arise in how liberally a priest's "family" was described. Finally, Leviticus 22:17-33 enumerates criteria for the sacrificial animals. Since the animals sacrificed became holy, they of course needed to be clean first. Thus they were not permitted to have physical defects, just as the priests who sacrificed them were not able to have physical defects.

- Mark W. Garner

Family Information

Food Pantry Needs

The Food Pantry is in need of the following: pancake syrup, canned juice, paper towels, kleenex, beef stew, saltine crackers.

Directory Corrections

Please make these corrections/additions to your directory:

Vicki Thomas & Phyllis Harp
334 Towne Ct. East, Gahanna, OH 43230,
Phone 476-1686.

Helen Williams correct phone number is
447-8762

Doris Jessie correct address is Columbus, 43235

Peggy Williams address is 499 E. 2nd Ave,
Columbus-43201, phone (614)291-0239

Additions

John and Victoria Appiah
2335 Malin Pl. #D
Columbus 43224 - phone (614) 418-7003

Mark Elliot
200 Parkwood Ave.
Pickerington 43147 - phone (614) 837-5636

Stephen and Gladys Osei-Sarpong
1980 Billingsley Rd.
Columbus 43235 - phone (614) 799-2477

Services

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am
Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am
Sunday Evening 5:30 pm
Wednesday Evening 7:00 pm

Elders: Wilbur Allen, Frank Chappell, Roy Estep, Gene Prince, Ray Thorne
Deacons: Brian Arnold, Tom Barnhardt, Joe Barozzini, John Bradley,
Steve Carver, Lynn Champney, Darrell Estep, Jack Evans, Don Gillespie, Lou
Lawrence, Sam Leslie, Jack Mauersberg, Beryl McMasters, Mark Morris,
Charlie Yates
Evangelists: Mike Hipes, Tom Barnhardt

Calendar

February

16 50's Plus Meeting
19 Leadership Devotional
19-20 Winterfest
20 50's Plus "Eat Out Sunday"
26 Area Wide Women's Brunch

Think About This

"An infinite God can give all of himself to each of his children. He does not distribute Himself that each may have a part, but to each one he gives all of himself as fully as if there were no others."
-Russell Payson

Shut Ins

Please remember and pray for the following members (cards would be appreciated):
Helen Williams, Jane Wooster.

Contributions

	Last Week	Avg YTD		Avg YTD
	\$4355		\$4868	
Russia	\$145	Avg YTD	\$203	
Youth Min.	\$240	Avg YTD	\$223	

Northland Church of Christ 4581 Cleveland Ave. Columbus, OH 43231 (614) 475-0161

N O R T H L A N D Messenger

February 6, 2000
Volume 9, Number 6

Mirrors Do Not Lie

It is impossible for a mirror to lie. A mirror's function is to simply reflect what is put in front of it. Many times the image that is reflected is less than desirable. For example, when a person first gets out of bed in the morning, his reflection may not be very pretty. A mirror reflects the exact image put before it.

"For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the word, this one will be blessed in what he does." (James 1:23-25)

The Word of God is like a mirror. A person can read the word of God and it will reveal an exact reflection of that persons spiritual life. The person will be able to compare what he reads in the Bible to the way that he lives his life and thus see a reflection of himself. If the Word reveals a faithful Christian then the challenge is to remain faithful. If the Word reveals a sinner outside of Christ then the challenge is to change your life.

If a person looks into this spiritual mirror and finds he needs to make changes to himself he has several options.

1. Ignore it – Many people believe if you ignore a problem long enough it will go away. In this situation it is not true. One cannot ignore the status of his own salvation.
2. Make a few outward changes – If a person realizes he is not the Christian he should be he can make a few outward changes simply to satisfy his own conscience. Of course this is not what God expects of him.
3. Change his life – If a person looks into the law of liberty and finds there are things he needs to change, God expects this person to change his life to meet the requirements given in the word to assure salvation.

What does your reflection look like?

From The Lord's Way

Serving God

THE DRUM MAJOR INSTINCT

(Part One)

This morning I would like to use as a subject from which to preach: "The Drum Major Instinct." And our text for (this) morning is taken from a very familiar passage in the tenth chapter as recorded by Saint Mark. Beginning with the thirty-fifth verse of that chapter, we read these words: "And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came unto him saying, 'Master we would that thou shouldst do for us whatsoever we shall desire.' And he said unto them, 'What would ye that I should do for you?' And they said unto him, 'Grant unto us that we may sit, one on thy right hand, and the other on thy left hand, in thy glory.' But Jesus said unto them, 'Ye know not what ye ask: Can ye drink of the cup that I drink of? And be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?' And they said unto him, 'We can.' And Jesus said unto them, 'Ye shall indeed drink of the cup that I drink of, and with the baptism that I am baptized withal shall ye be baptized: but to sit on my right hand and on my left hand is not mine to give; but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared.'" And then Jesus goes on toward the end of that passage to say, "But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your servant: and whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all."

The setting is clear. James and John are making a specific request of the master. They had dreamed, as most of the Hebrews dreamed, of a coming king of Israel who would set Jerusalem free and establish his kingdom on Mount Zion, and in righteousness rule the world. And they thought of Jesus as this kind of king. And they were thinking of that day when Jesus would reign supreme as this new king of Israel. And they were saying, "Now, when you establish your kingdom, let one of us sit on the right hand and the other on the left hand of your throne."

Now, very quickly, we would automatically condemn James and John, and we would say they were selfish. Why would they make such a selfish request? But before we condemn them too quickly, let us look calmly and honestly at ourselves and we will discover that we too have those same basic desires for recognition, for importance. That same desire for attention, that same desire to be first. Of course, the other disciples got mad with James and John, and you could understand why, but we must understand that we have some of the same James and John qualities. And there is deep down within all of us an instinct. It's a kind of drum major instinct—a desire to be out front, a desire to lead the parade, a desire to be first. And it is something that runs the whole gamut of life.

And so before we condemn them, let us see that we all have the drum major instinct. We all want to be important, to surpass others, to achieve distinction, to lead the parade. ... What was the answer that Jesus gave these men? It's very interesting. One would have thought that Jesus would have condemned them. One would have thought that Jesus would have said, "You are out of your place. You are selfish. Why would you raise such a question?"

But that isn't what Jesus did; he did something altogether different. He said in substance, "Oh, I see, you want to be first. You want to be great. You want to be important. You want to be significant. Well, you ought to be. If you're going to be my disciple, you must be." But he reordered priorities. And he said, "Yes, don't give up this instinct. It's a good instinct if you don't distort it and pervert it. Keep feeling the need for being first. But I want you to be first in love. I want you to be first in moral excellence. I want you to be first in generosity. That is what I want you to do."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Excerpted from a sermon preached in Atlanta, Feb. 1968
(to be continued next week)

Growth In Jesus

THE HOLY & THE COMMON THE UNCLEAN & THE CLEAN LESSONS FROM LEVITICUS

Week Twenty-Two

Practical Cleanness & Holiness for Christians
(Based on Leviticus 11-22)

Before moving further in Leviticus, we shall consider how the principles behind the laws of cleanness and holiness apply to Christians. These are just as vital in the New Covenant, with different details. We shall first consider the role of cleanness in the Christian life. There are three especially significant aspects of cleanness: the basic meaning of cleanness, the implications of the general cleanness laws, and the lessons of the Day of Atonement ceremonies.

In Leviticus, the concepts of pure, perfect, complete, whole, and normal are all associated in various ways with cleanness. An additional concept, maturity, is associated with these concepts in the New Covenant. Christians should reflect all these qualities in their lives. Unbelievers have a concept of a "complete life" that revolves around "having it all" in a worldly sense. We want to show them that our lives are complete and perfect, even without worldly junk. We want to present a life of purity and maturity, not based on an arbitrary code of behavior, but flowing from our faith and love for God. This is what Jesus meant in John 10 when he said he came that we "may have life, and have it to the full". He did not come to give us earthly treasure, but to enable us fully to experience all aspects of life that are of real significance. His own life was a perfect example of this type of "cleanness", perfection, and maturity.

Christians generally need not follow literally the cleanness laws (Lev. 11-15), but these laws carry the same general challenge to Christians as they did to Jews. By requiring cleanness of the Israelites in seemingly ordinary areas of life, God fixed in their minds the importance of cleanness, and of letting him reign in all areas of life. Christians also must learn to regard every area of life as under God's authority and control. Our Creator takes an interest in everything about how we live, making Christian cleanness a challenging concept. As Paul twice told the Corinthians, "Everything is permissible, but not everything is beneficial". Christians are expected to rise above the letter of the law, and not to wait for a specific command before taking action that will please God.

Another lesson in Leviticus, made especially memorable on the Day of Atonement, is that uncleanness is real to God, almost tangible. Uncleanness and sin repel God and make him want to withdraw from his creation. That is why the Levitical system required so many sacrifices. Without Jesus, this same palpable filth would perpetually hang on each of us, and would make it impossible for God to have fellowship with us. Our fleshly mind-set finds it difficult to adjust to this way of looking at things, but when we grasp this basic reality, we appreciate much more the cleansing that came through Jesus' blood. Though Christians are relieved of the burden of constant uncleanness, forgiven and assured of eternal life, this alone does not complete God's plan for our existence. God has given us his Holy Spirit to live in us, just as his presence dwelt in the Levitical tabernacle. And just as human uncleanness, if not dealt with, would have caused God to withdraw his presence from the tabernacle, we must not pollute today's temple of the Holy Spirit. We must avoid anything that would make closeness to God more difficult.

-Mark W. Garner

Family Information

Food Pantry Needs

The Food Pantry is in need of the following: canned juice, kleenex, jelly, bar soap, toilet paper, saltine crackers.

A Survival Kit For Everyday

Items needed: toothpick, rubber band, band aid, pencil, eraser, chewing gum, mint, candy kiss, tea bag—why?

- 1) **Toothpick**—to remind you to pick out the good qualities in others. Mathew 7:1
 - 2) **Rubber Band**—to remind you to be flexible, things might not always go the way you want, but it will work out. Romans 8:28
 - 3) **Band Aid**—to remind you to heal hurt feelings, yours or someone else's. Colossians 3:12-14
 - 4) **Pencil**—to remind you to list your blessings everyday. Ephesians 1:3
 - 5) **Eraser**—to remind you that everyone makes mistakes, and it's OK. Genesis 50:15
 - 6) **Chewing Gum**—to remind you to stick with it and you can accomplish anything with Jesus. Philippians 4:13
 - 7) **Mint**—to remind you that you are worth a mint to your heavenly Father. 1 John 4:7
 - 8) **Candy Kiss**—to remind you that everyone needs a kiss or a hug everyday. 1 John 4:7
 - 9) **Tea Bag**—to remind you to relax daily and go over that list of God's blessings. 1 Thess 5:18
- A verbal wound is as bad as a physical one. Friends are a very rare jewel, indeed. They make you smile and encourage you to succeed. They lend an ear, share a word or praise and they always open their hearts to us.
- Selected

Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 am
Sunday Worship Service	10:30 am
Sunday Evening	5:30 pm
Wednesday Evening	7:00 pm

Elders: Wilbur Allen, Frank Chappell, Roy Estep, Gene Prince, Ray Thorne
Deacons: Brian Arnold, Tom Barnhardt, Joe Barozzini, John Bradley, Steve Carver, Lynn Champney, Darrell Estep, Jack Evans, Don Gillespie, Lou Lawrence, Sam Leslie, Jack Mauersberg, Beryl McMasters, Mark Morris, Charlie Yates
Evangelists: Mike Hipes, Tom Barnhardt

Calendar

February

- 16 50's Plus Meeting
 19 Leadership Devotional
 19-20 Winterfest
 20 50's Plus "Eat Out Sunday"
 26 Area Wide Women's Brunch
 10:30-12:30 In The Annex
 27 Short Camp Workers Meeting After Morning Services In Room E-42

Wedding Announcement

Ruth Rogers and Bill Nelson are engaged to be married. The wedding will be at Northland on May 6th, 2000. More details later.

Shut Ins

Please remember and pray for the following members (cards would be appreciated):
 Helen Williams, Jane Wooster.

Contributions

Last Week	\$6904	Avg YTD	\$5159
Russia	\$220	Avg YTD	\$205
Youth Min.	\$195	Avg YTD	\$219

Northland Church of Christ 4581 Cleveland Ave. Columbus, OH 43231 (614) 475-0161

N O R T H L A N D Messenger

February 13, 2000 Volume 9, Number 7

When I Say I Am A Christian

When I say... "I am a Christian"
 I'm not shouting "I am saved"
 I'm whispering "I was lost!"
 That is why I chose this way.

When I say... "I am a Christian"
 I don't speak of this with pride.
 I'm confessing that I stumble
 And need someone to be my guide.

When I say... "I am a Christian"
 I'm not trying to be strong.
 I'm professing that I'm weak
 And pray for strength to carry on.

When I say... "I am a Christian"
 I'm not bragging of success.
 I'm admitting I have failed
 And cannot ever pay the debt.

When I say... "I am a Christian"
 I'm not claiming to be perfect,
 My flaws are too visible
 But God believes I'm worth it.

When I say... "I am a Christian"
 I still feel the sting of pain.
 I have my share of heartaches
 Which is why I seek His name.

When I say... "I am a Christian"
 I do not wish to judge.
 I have no authority.
 I only know I'm loved.

Carol Wimmer

Serving God

THE DRUM MAJOR INSTINCT

(Part Two)

And he transformed the situation by giving a new definition of greatness. And you know how he said it? He said, "Now brethren, I can't give you greatness. And really, I can't make you first." This is what Jesus said to James and John. "You must earn it. True greatness comes not by favoritism, but by fitness. And the right hand and the left are not mine to give, they belong to those who are prepared."

And so Jesus gave us a new norm of greatness. If you want to be important – wonderful. If you want to be recognized – wonderful. If you want to be great – wonderful. But recognize that he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. That's a new definition of greatness.

And this morning, the thing that I like about it: By giving that definition of greatness, it means that everybody can be great, because everybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You don't have to know about Plato and Aristotle to serve. You don't have to know Einstein's theory of relativity to serve. You don't have to know the second theory of thermodynamics in physics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love. And you can be that servant.

I know a man – and I just want to talk about him a minute, and maybe you will discover who I'm talking about as I go down the way because he was a great one. And he just went about serving. He was born in an obscure village, the child of a poor peasant woman. And then he grew up in still another obscure village, where he worked as a carpenter until he was thirty years old. Then for three years, he just got on his feet, and he was an

itinerant preacher. And he went about doing some things. He didn't have much. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family. He never owned a house. He never went to college. He never visited a big city. He never went two hundred miles from where he was born. He did none of the usual things that the world would associate with greatness. He had no credentials but himself.

He was only thirty-three when the tide of public opinion turned against him. They called him a rabble-rouser. They called him a troublemaker. They said he was an agitator. He practiced civil disobedience; he broke injunctions. And so he was turned over to his enemies and went through the mockery of a trial. And the irony of it all is that his friends turned him over to them. One of his closest friends denied him. Another of his friends turned him over to his enemies. And while he was dying, the people who killed him gambled for his clothing, the only possession that he had in the world. When he was dead he was buried in a borrowed tomb, through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen centuries have come and gone and today he stands as the most influential figure that ever entered human history. All of the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned put together have not affected the life of man on this earth as much as that one solitary life. His name may be a familiar one. Every now and then somebody says, "He's King of Kings." And again I can hear somebody saying, "He's Lord of Lords." ... "In him there's no North and South, but one great Fellowship of Love throughout the whole wide world."...

This morning, you can be on his right hand and his left hand if you serve. It's the only way in.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Excerpts from a sermon preached in Atlanta,
February 1968

Growth In Jesus

THE HOLY & THE COMMON THE UNCLEAR & THE CLEAN LESSONS FROM LEVITICUS

Week Twenty-Three: Practical Holiness
(continued, based on Leviticus 17-18)

We can, as mentioned before, get a good basic perspective on Christian cleanness and holiness from Hebrews 10:14, "by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those being made holy". Jesus' sacrifice was much more effective than the Levitical sacrifices, and thus made us perfect, or clean, forever. But we must grow into holiness, as God works in our lives and as we accept more and more his lordship, and understand more and more his purposes. We shall now begin a brief survey of how some of the "holiness laws" can be of practical use to Christians, even though we no longer follow the literal instructions of these commands.

Chapter 17 contains laws relating to food and worship. God wants his people to be fully conscious of where their food comes from, and how it reveals their dependence on him. The Christian habit of praying before meals is an excellent way of recognizing this, provided we think consciously about our dependence on God for food, and do not simply pray as a lifeless ritual. Also, God insisted that sacrifices be offered at the place he determined (v.8-9), which originally was the tabernacle, and later the temple. Throughout Israel's history, many persons chose to create their own "high places", where they offered sacrifices and incense. The motivations for this varied, but were sometimes a "well-meaning" desire to worship God more "freely". Regardless of the motivation, and of whether the sacrifices at the

high places were to the true God or to false gods, God condemned the practice. It is noteworthy that over time the "high places" gradually became sites of pagan worship. A similar pattern is often seen in the history of Christianity. When believers choose to compromise and accept some unauthorized human innovation, whether a musical instrument, unbiblical forms of organization, or anything else, it is often a prelude to more large-scale departures from the Scriptures.

Leviticus 18 establishes strict standards for sexual behavior, indicating what is and is not appropriate for God's people. The same basic standards apply in the New Testament, which teaches that sex is meant for married couples alone. Though most Christians accept this, we often uphold the command rigorously without truly understanding it. We do realize an important principle that pagans do not, namely that inappropriate sexual behavior is only pleasurable in the short term, and inevitably leads to many unpleasant consequences later. But this is not the main reason why God regulates sex. The main reason is that sex outside of marriage is a violation of our identity as a holy people. A holy person belongs to God alone, by definition. In marriage, God joins us together with another of his holy people, to belong to each other as long as we both live. Until and unless we are married to someone of the opposite sex, he or she continues to belong to God alone (or to his or her own spouse, if married). Anyone, then, who has sex outside of marriage, is claiming for himself or herself what properly belongs to God, a direct and serious violation of holiness. What one's own body does in sexual intercourse may make him or her unclean (Lev. 15), but what one does to another person can be a violation against holiness. Further, in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus indicates that lust alone can be an equivalent of adultery. For Christians, then, our holy calling makes an even higher standard appropriate.

- Mark W. Garner

Family Information

Food Pantry Needs

The Food Pantry is in need of the following: kleenex, paper towels, pancake syrup, cake mix, shampoo, toothpaste.

Think About It !!

"A Christian man is the most free lord of all, and subject to none; a Christian man is the most dutiful servant of all, and subject to everyone."

-Martin Luther

"It is better to deserve honors and not have them than it is to have them and not deserve them."

-Mark Twain

"The best thing about the future is that it comes only one day at a time."

-Abraham Lincoln

Blessed is the man who is too busy to worry in the day and too tired to lie awake at night.

-Bulletin Inserts

Fewer marriages would skid, if more who said, "I do"...did.

-Sparks From the Fire

Prayer is so simple; it is like quietly opening a door and slipping into the very presence of God.

-Mark N. Posey

Services

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am
 Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am
 Sunday Evening 5:30 pm
 Wednesday Evening 7:00 pm

Elders: Wilbur Allen, Frank Chappell, Roy Estep, Gene Prince, Ray Thorne
Deacons: Brian Arnold, Tom Barnhardt, Joe Barozzini, John Bradley, Steve Carver, Lynn Champney, Darrell Estep, Jack Evans, Don Gillespie, Lou Lawrence, Sam Leslie, Jack Mauersberg, Beryl McMasters, Mark Morris, Charlie Yates
Evangelists: Mike Hipes, Tom Barnhardt

Northland Church of Christ 4581 Cleveland Ave. Columbus, OH 43231 (614) 475-0161

Calendar

February

19-20 Winterfest
 20 50's Plus "Eat Out Sunday"
 26 Area Wide Women's Brunch
 10:30-12:30 In The Annex
 27 Short Camp Workers Meeting After
 Morning Services In Room E-42

Psalms 34: 7-9

"The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them. Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in the LORD, for those who lack the LORD is the man who in him. Fear the LORD, you his saints, who fear him nothing."



Shut Ins

Please remember and pray for the following members (cards would be appreciated): Helen Williams, Jane Wooster.

Contributions

	Last Week	\$8132	Avg YTD	\$5531
Russia	\$280	Avg YTD	\$215	
Youth Min.	\$307	Avg YTD	\$230	

N O R T H L A N D Messenger

February 20, 2000
 Volume 9, Number 8

The Struggle Within

Each of you this morning in some way is building some kind of temple. The struggle is always there. It gets discouraging sometimes. It gets very disenchanting sometimes...Well, that is the story of life. And the thing that makes me happy is that I can hear a voice crying through the vista of time, saying: "It may not come today or it may not come tomorrow, but it is well that it is within thine heart. It's well that you are trying." You may not see it. The dream may not be fulfilled, but it's just good that you have a desire to bring it into reality. It's well that it's in thine heart.

Thank God this morning that we do have hearts to put something meaningful in. Life is a continual story of shattered dreams.

Now, let me bring out another point. Whenever you set out to build a creative temple, whatever it may be, you must face the fact that there is a tension at the heart of the universe between good and evil. It's there: a tension at the heart of the universe between good and evil. Hinduism refers to this as a struggle between illusion and reality. Platonic philosophy used to refer to it as a tension between body and soul. Zoroastrianism, a religion of old, used to refer to it as a tension between the god of light and the god of darkness. Traditional Judaism and Christianity refer to it as a tension between God and Satan. Whatever you call it, there is a struggle in the universe between good and evil...

But you know, some of us feel that it's a tension between God and man. And in every one of us this morning, there's a war going on. It's a civil war. I don't care who you are, I don't care where you live, there is a civil war going on in your life. And every time you set out to be good, there's something pulling on you, telling you to be evil. It's going on in your life. Every time you set out to love, something keeps pulling on you, trying to get you to hate. Every time you set out to be kind and say nice things about people, something is pulling on you to be jealous and envious and to spread evil gossip about them. There's a civil war going on. There is a schizophrenia, as the psychologists or the psychiatrists would call it, going on within all of us. And there are times that all of us know somehow that there is a Mr. Hyde and a Dr. Jekyll in us.... We end up crying out with the Apostle Paul, "The good that I would I do not; And the evil that I would not, that I do." There's a tension at the heart of human nature. And whenever we set out to dream our dreams and to build our temples, we must be honest enough to recognize it...

It will be dark sometimes, and it will be dismal and trying, and tribulations will come. But if you have faith in the God that I'm talking about this morning, it doesn't matter. For you can stand up amid the storms. And I say it to you out of experience this morning; yes, I've seen the lightning flash. I've heard the thunder roll. I've felt sin-breakers dashing, trying to conquer my soul. But I heard the voice of Jesus, saying still to fight on. He promised never to leave me. Never to leave me alone.

And when you get this faith, you can walk with your feet solid to the ground and your head to the air, and you fear no man.

Martin Luther King, Jr.
 Excerpts from a sermon preached in Atlanta, March 1968

Serving God

Renewing our Marriage Relationships

Part 1 Start With Yourself

"Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?...first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye." Mt 7:3-5

"Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things." Php 4:8

Boxed chocolates, designer perfumes, frilly valentines...what have you done for your honey lately? There are all sorts of delightful gifts that we share with our sweethearts, especially at Valentine's Day. But of what lasting value?

One of the greatest gifts we can give to each other is the effort to be our best for each other and for God. Finding the "log in our eye" and seeking God's help to remove it could be one of the most long-lasting and valuable gifts we can give. Not that it is completely without cost...

To truly change takes effort. Prayer, study, reliance on God's wisdom— all of these play a part in "rooting out" the areas of ungodliness in our lives. Are we unreliable? Then let's seek ways to change and *prove* ourselves reliable. Are we unyielding? Then let's study out scriptures regarding submission and ask others to hold us accountable ("Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another"—Pr 27:17). As Benjamin Franklin once said, "Each year, one vicious habit rooted out in time ought to make the worst man good."

We can also then use our eventual growth to help our spouse who may be weak in a similar area. By our example, our actions can motivate our spouses to "self-improve" also. If you and your spouse both struggle with impatience, start with yourself. *Your* impatience. Allow God to cleanse your heart and, over time, you can be an example to your husband or wife in patience (the very first quality of love listed in I Cor 13). As a couple, we can pray together and hold each other accountable (in love) for the progress we're making in "self-improvement."

Long after the valentine gets crumpled (and the chocolates are now unwanted pounds!) we can continue to shower love on each other by allowing God's Spirit to work in our hearts, helping us to be transformed. Spiritual growth is the gift that keeps on giving!

Thoughts and Challenges: Put yourself in your spouse's shoes for just a moment—what would he or she see in you that needs development or improvement? Would you like to be married to someone exactly like you? Why or why not?

Prayers: May God give us increasing wisdom into the specific areas of our lives that need to change—for God's glory and for our loved one's benefit.

-Linda Chivington

Growth In Jesus

THE HOLY & THE COMMON THE UNCLEAN & THE CLEAN LESSONS FROM LEVITICUS

Week Twenty-Four: Practical Holiness
(continued, based on Leviticus 19-22)

Most of the relationship laws in chapter 19 flow directly from the definition of holiness. Since God has given to us both our physical families and our brothers and sisters in the Lord, our actions and words towards another person are thus done to someone who belongs to God. In the parable of the sheep and the goats, Jesus says "whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me". Most of these relationship laws are repeated in (literally) similar forms in the New Testament.

Not so the laws of crime and punishment in chapter 20, which often prescribe harsh punishments for religious, criminal, or social violations. As Christians, we should learn two things from these laws, and this time neither is a literal application of the laws. First, we should realize the severity with which even apparently "minor" violations were punished, if they were violations of holiness. Second, we should realize that all the punishments which God's people were to implement were directed at sinning believers, not pagans.

We can see the importance of both of these in the ways that many Christians look at sin. It is all too easy for believers to become outraged over the types of repulsive sins (such as abortion and homosexuality) committed in the unbelieving society that surrounds us, and to long to see them punished. But we fail to see the severity of some sins against holiness which are rampant among

God's own people. Consider the sins that, when continually practiced, are grounds for dis-fellowship (in 1 Cor. 5). Greed and slander (i.e. gossip) are just as offensive to God as sexual immorality and drunkenness. Further, as Paul says in that chapter, "What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? God will judge those outside." We would do well to take the energy that we expend ranting against the sins of pagans, and use it instead to make ourselves more worthy of our holy calling. If we did, perhaps the renewed joy and confidence we would find would serve as a better example that more pagans would want to emulate.

This section concludes with a lengthy series of rules for the holy priests (Leviticus 21-22). As priests of the New covenant, these laws will have an obvious significance for us, although not always a literal one. The main thrust of the laws is to establish that the priests were set apart (holy) from the rest of the community in certain ways. For example, they were generally not able to observe times of mourning as were the other Israelites. This can be associated with Jesus' statement to "let the dead bury their own dead", that is, not as a literal prohibition of mourning for Christians, but as a call to have a certain perspective. God does not want his priests (Christians) looking backwards, and he does not want us to get into the common but unproductive human habit of looking at the past with regret. Similar parallels could be drawn to many of the other commands and restrictions concerning the priesthood.

This brief survey has by no means exhausted the possible examples, but merely identifies for us several ways in which we can make holiness a practical and important part of our daily lives.

- Mark W. Garner

Family Information

Food Pantry Needs

The Food Pantry is in need of the following: kleenex, jelly, bar soap, paper towels, shampoo, toothpaste, brown grocery bags, saltine crackers.

New Classes

New adult bible classes will begin next Sunday, March 5th. On Sundays there will be two classes - a class on 1st and 2nd Timothy, specifically for young adults (29 and younger) and a class on Psalms, for everyone else. On Wednesdays, Mike Hipes will be teaching a class on "Making Disciples for Jesus Christ."

Bring Your Neighbor Day Potluck

Don't forget the potluck following "Bring Your Neighbor Day" services on Sunday March 5. A meat dish will be provided. Sign up to bring a vegetable dish, salad, and/or dessert on the list posted in the foyer. If you would like to help serve in this event, please see Sam Leslie, Lynn Champney, or Will Bickley.

Think About It !!

Vance Havner said: "God is on the lookout today for a man who will be quite enough to get a message from Him, brave enough to preach it, and honest enough to live it."

Morality may keep you out of jail, but it takes the blood of Jesus Christ to keep you out of hell.
-Charles H. Spurgeon

Services

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am
Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am
Sunday Evening 5:30 pm
Wednesday Evening 7:00 pm

Elders: Wilbur Allen, Frank Chappell, Roy Estep, Gene Prince, Ray Thorne
Deacons: Brian Arnold, Tom Barnhardt, Joe Barozzini, John Bradley, Steve Carver, Lynn Champney, Darrell Estep, Jack Evans, Don Gillespie, Lou Lawrence, Sam Leslie, Jack Mauersberg, Beryl McMasters, Mark Morris, Charlie Yates
Evangelists: Mike Hipes, Tom Barnhardt

Calendar

February

27 Short Camp Workers Meeting After Morning Services In Room E-42

March

1 50's Plus Meeting
4 Leadership Devotional
5 New Bible Classes Begin
5 Neighbor Day And Potluck After Services
15 50's Plus Meeting
18 Leadership Devotional
19 50's Plus "Eat Out Sunday"
24 COCS Grandparents Day

Shut Ins

Please remember and pray for the following members (cards would be appreciated):
Helen Williams.

Contributions

Last Week	\$4472	Avg YTD	\$5413
Russia	\$208	Avg YTD	\$214
Youth Min.	\$240	Avg YTD	\$231

Northland Church of Christ 4581 Cleveland Ave. Columbus, OH 43231 (614) 475-0161

The Trivialization Of Sin

We have seen it coming, and for some strange reason there seemed to be very little that could be done about it. Over the past thirty or forty years in particular, our American society has been in the process of redefining sin and trivializing it to the point that it is not supposed to be something which offends a holy God. It is now called a sickness; a disorder instead of what it is: a violation of the holiness of God. Jesus did not come to this world to die for a disorder or a social sickness. He came to sacrifice Himself for the sins of the world.

Somewhere along the line, when a person sins, it came to be seen more as a social failing than a spiritual failing. Instead of needing repentance in order to restore a proper relationship to God, they need a psychiatrist or counselor to help them repair a social failure which offends people. The public now is more afraid of offending someone else than they are of offending God.

Repentance, which turns one back to God seeking mercy, is what this nation needs and indeed must have. Repentance is not simply feeling sorry for something. It goes deeper than that. True repentance is regret mixed with moral compunction and energized by the Holy spirit for the purpose of restoring one's fellowship with God. Simply feeling sorry that one got caught is not the same as repentance. Indeed, our society now thinks that if one is not caught then nothing was done for which a person should be punished. In other words if one gets away with it, there is nothing wrong with what was done.

Nothing could be further from the truth. And, the idea that wrong doing is nothing more than a social transgression leads people to feel that getting by without being caught is the crux of the matter. Without being caught, no one was offended or at least they don't know who offended them so no apology (social repentance) is needed.

But, when one is caught, that's a different matter. What must be done? Well, the defining element in the situation is this: do they feel they need to make an explanation or do they primarily feel that they must go to God in contrition? You see, an explanation is needed when one has trivialized sin and they want to repair the situation with people so that the social ill will cause no further pain. Contrition is when one throws himself upon God, begging for His mercy. When that is settled to God's satisfaction one must come, in true contrition, seeking the forgiveness of those who have been wronged or hurt. Once forgiveness is received, then, and not before, restoration can take place.

God will not allow sin to be trivialized, and anyone trying it will, sooner or later, face His judgment.

William F. Harrell

N O R T H L A N D
Messenger

February 27, 2000 Volume 9, Number 9

Serving God

Renewing our Marriage Relationships

Part 2 Honoring

"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone." Mt 18:15

"...outdo one another in showing honor." Rm 12:10b

"Do nothing from selfishness or conceit, but in humility count others better than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others." Php 2:3-4

Chivalry is dead, so they say. The art of defending the honorable is all but lost. The world today seems to value relationships very little and honor, even less.

The marriage relationship that God ordained is a precious jewel. Because familiarity really does breed contempt, we need to be constantly reminded of how special our spouse is and what a gift we've been given by God. I find myself, and I suppose you do, too, often being the most irritable and difficult with those who are dearest to me. I take my husband and family for granted and start arguments over the most ridiculous things. I have been reminding myself lately that "a wife's quarreling is a continual dripping of rain" (Pr 19:13b).

Wives, we are to respect our husbands (Eph 5:33b), plain and simple. This, I'm sure, is often quite difficult for wives with non-believing husbands. Hopefully, it shouldn't be nearly as challenging for those of us united in godly marriages. We are to be "subject to our husbands, as is fitting in the Lord." I know that sometimes I fall into spousal criticism, not being careful to talk my grievances out privately. When we, as wives, belittle or scold our husbands, it breaks God's heart! It's also a poor example for our children. A man's honor is extremely important to him; how embarrassing for him to be put down publicly! First, we need to determine if there's a problem with sin or just a difference of opinion. Then, if we have challenges to make or arguments to work out, it should be done one-on-one, in private. But even then, let's not forget that honoring is an express command of God.

Husbands, you are to love your wives (Eph 5:33a) and "do not be harsh with them." You are called to love your wife as Christ loved the church. That is rather amazing love! That is not a call to disgrace, humiliate or tear down your wife, for any reason. Christ would not imagine such a thing. We, as women, generally have a more difficult time with self-image, and our relationships make up a huge part of how we view ourselves. If our husbands don't show us that they value us, or if they degrade us, it can be devastating. Do you remember John 8:1-11? Christ defended even this adulterous woman whom he had just met. There was no public defamation, no insults hurled at her—simple love and compassion. What an example! May we see his compassion and grace as a constant reminder to be gentle with one another, for "he who forgives an offense seeks love."

Let us remember that honoring someone is not merely *not dishonoring* someone. I challenge us all to seek ways to verbally praise our spouses. Affirm each other continually with a shower of praise rather than a dripping of criticism. Build each other up and protect your loved one's honor!

Thoughts and Challenges:

Remember Don Quixote? Willing to fight even for a harlot whom he deemed a *lady*? How much more should our honor extend to our husbands and wives! Let's see one another with the eyes of Christ, looking beyond our sins to see the heart.

Prayers:

May God help us all to see ways to build our spouses up, and convict us when we show dishonor.

-Linda Chivington

Growth In Jesus

THE HOLY & THE COMMON THE UNCLEAN & THE CLEAN LESSONS FROM LEVITICUS

Week Twenty-Five: Holy Days (Leviticus 23)

Leviticus 23 discusses the regular Sabbath day, and also several annual holy days, or festivals, to be observed by God's people. These were very important to the spiritual lives of the Israelites, and are frequently mentioned in the Old Testament (see also Numbers 28-29 and Deuteronomy 16). There are two important aspects of these days for us: first, their connection with the concept of holiness, and second, the spiritual principles that they taught to God's people. Both give us insight into Christian worship and thankfulness. Note that some current Jewish holidays are not mentioned in Leviticus, because they were not part of the original Levitical system. This includes Hanukkah, which commemorates the re-dedication of the temple after Judas Maccabeus' victory in 164 BC, and Purim, commemorating the deliverance of the Jews in Persia as narrated in the book of Esther.

In the Scriptures, many holy days are titled as "feasts" or "festivals". This sometimes seems paradoxical when they refer to days that require self-deprivation as part of the observance. Clearly, celebration or festival has a different meaning to God. God schedules celebrations of things that are truly worth celebrating, while humans schedule "festivals" for their own short-term, ignorant self-indulgence. A holy people celebrate what is holy, not what is common. The basic, regular weekly Sabbath day (v. 1-4) illustrates the concept of a holy day. The Sabbath day was God's, not part of the normal course of life, and therefore was set apart for his people to do something other than pursue their

own interests. The acknowledgment of the day as belonging to God is even more important than either rest or worship *per se*.

Later generations of Jews developed the misconception that the Sabbath centered on the lack of physical activity. The human natural tendency of humans to focus on the outward and physical is clearly seen in the attitudes of the Pharisees in the New Testament. They failed to understand that what God wanted on the Sabbath was to refrain from doing work that benefitted oneself. Jesus explained on several occasions that many physical actions, especially those benefitting another person such as healing or helping, were not only permissible but appropriate on the Sabbath. Other misunderstandings persist today even amongst believers. For example, it is a common but erroneous notion that Sunday is the Christian Sabbath. The apostolic church of Christ did not observe Sunday as a Sabbath, or even as a day off from work. The concept of Sunday as Sabbath is strictly a later-day denominational teaching. Hebrews 4 tells us that there is a Sabbath rest for the people of God, but it is much more than a weekly physical rest.

The Sabbath was certainly significant in its own right, as a weekly holy day ensuring that God's people took a break from their normal activities, to reflect on God. Daily habits and routine activities can have a numbing power that de-sensitizes us to the spiritual side of life, and it is important to have a regular break in one's routines. But the real point of the Sabbath was regularly to remind the Israelites that there was more to their lives than seeking their own good every day. The Sabbath is also a model for the special feast days, which generally had as a basic feature the same abstention from profitable labor as was observed on the weekly Sabbath.

- Mark W. Garner

Family Information

Food Pantry Needs

The Food Pantry is in need of the following: kleenex, jelly, bar soap, paper towels, shampoo, toothpaste, brown grocery bags, saltine crackers.

Bring Your Neighbor Day Potluck

Don't forget the potluck following "Bring Your Neighbor Day" after services today.

Wasted Time

"Subject - Death"

John R. Rice used to tell the story of a man who was visited on his death bed. At the first visit a friend asked the man, "Is there something I can do for you? What can I do for you?" The man said "No, there isn't anything you can do."

The next day the friend asked the same question, "Is there anything I can do?" "No, no," the man replied.

A third and fourth time the friend asked the same question. To each inquiry, the man, in obvious weakness and discomfort, responded, "No! No! No! There's nothing anybody can do. But, oh, if there were only somebody who could **undo!**"

-Sermon Illustrations-Each-Week

Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 am
Sunday Worship Service	10:30 am
Sunday Evening	5:30 pm
Wednesday Evening	7:00 pm

Elders: Wilbur Allen, Frank Chappell, Roy Estep, Gene Prince, Ray Thorne
Deacons: Brian Arnold, Tom Barnhardt, Joe Barozzini, John Bradley, Steve Carver, Lynn Champney, Darrell Estep, Jack Evans, Don Gillespie, Lou Lawrence, Sam Leslie, Jack Mauersberg, Beryl McMasters, Mark Morris, Charlie Yates
Evangelists: Mike Hipes, Tom Barnhardt

Calendar

March

5	New Bible Classes Begin
5	Neighbor Day And Potluck After Services
15	50's Plus Meeting
18	Leadership Devotional
19	50's Plus "Eat Out Sunday"
24	COCS Grandparents Day

Thank You

I would like to thank my Northland family for all the cards, visits, and expressions of concern during my hospitalization. Love in Christ,
 Jeff Mcvicker and family

Shut Ins

Please remember and pray for the following members (cards would be appreciated):
 Helen Williams.

Contributions

Last Week	\$5709	Avg YTD	\$5443
Russia	\$215	Avg YTD	\$214
Youth Min.	\$325	Avg YTD	\$241

Friends And Neighbors

Welcome to the Northland Church of Christ. We hope that the time you spend with us today draws you closer to God and makes you more appreciative of the unbounded love He shows toward us. If you have any questions about what you hear taught or see practiced, feel free to ask the person who invited you, or Mike Hipes our pulpit minister, or one of us elders. Be sure to stick around after worship and enjoy an informal meal with us in the Annex building across the parking lot.

Our mission here at Northland is a simple one: "To make and mature disciples for Jesus Christ." That mission was given to the "eleven" and to all Christians by Jesus Himself (Matthew 28:19-20). We are further motivated by the great love that God demonstrates toward us:

"You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:6-8, NIV)

That's why we are here this morning, and that's why someone invited you to join us. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is indeed "good news".

Even though we've been washed in the blood (Ephesians 1:7), we stumble and sin from time to time. Although we are well aware of the power and potential wrath of God (2 Thessalonians 1:5-10), we do not live in fear, for we know that God is on our side (Roman 8:28-39; 1 John 1:5-10).

If you'd like to know more about the wonderful God whom we worship this morning, take a few minutes to look up the Bible verses I've referred to in this letter. If you have trouble finding any of them, ask a Northland member; he or she will be glad to help. In addition, plan to join us next Sunday at 9:30 a.m. or Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. for one of our many Bible classes. Classes are available for children (Cradle Roll through 5th Grade), teens, and adults. We'd love to have you. We also have a number of "small groups" that meet in homes on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sunday evenings of each month as well as groups that meet throughout the week. Come and join us.

For the elders,
 Ray Thorne

N O R T H L A N D
 Messenger

March 5, 2000
 Volume 9, Number 10

Serving God

Renewing Our Relationships in Marriage

Pt 3 Commitment

"Therefore a man leaves his father and mother and cleaves to his wife, and they become one flesh."
Gen 2:24

"...for love is as strong as death....many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. If a man offered for love all the wealth of his house it would be utterly scorned." Song of Sol 8:6-7

For better or worse, in sickness and in health, for richer or poorer... 'til death do us part. We've all either heard or said these very words at some point in life. Unfortunately, to the world, these are quaint greeting-card sentiments that have little to do with real life or self-fulfillment. It's pretty much a matter of time before the "worse" simply overtakes the "better" and then the relationship is abandoned.

As Christians, we who are given the joy and responsibility of marriage need to take the vows we make seriously. After all, they aren't simply being made to fulfill a legal obligation or for the thrill and preparation for a wedding ceremony but as a covenant with our spouses and God. "The Lord was witness to the covenant between you and the wife of your youth...(Mal 2:14b)."

It is not to be entered into lightly, for "I hate divorce, says the Lord God of Israel (Mal 2:16)." Despite what we tell ourselves ("It could never happen to us. We're different"), let us not challenge Satan and be so arrogant as to assume invincibility, especially by our own efforts. It must be a spiritual, renewing force that pulls us together, and not apart. That driving force in any sound marriage is Jesus Christ. I'm not saying every non-Christian couple will eventually get divorced (though the statistics are quite high!), but they certainly are entering into a sort of marital Russian roulette. Even the statistics on divorce rates among those who casually consider themselves Christians is disgustingly high. However, one hopeful statistic that I've seen that probably bears attention is this: *1 in every 1000 couples who regularly pray together get divorced. Surprised?*

May we be humble enough to accept that loving is an active verb and that we need to be devoted to our spouses, for better or worse. I've heard it said, "Divorce is never mentioned in our house. Murder, yes, but never divorce!" (Hopefully, that's not a temptation!) Let's entrust our relationships to God and pray together to remain together for the long haul. Let's decide to stay by each other through all of our God-given years— even when we're old and gray and helping each other shuffle slowly down the sidewalk, arm-in-arm. That, my friends, is love.

Thoughts and Challenges:

Our Savior gave up everything for us and will love us, regardless of our actions. How can we emulate that sort of love and devotion in our marriages?

Prayers:

Pray (together) that both you and your spouse can remain committed to each other and your vows. Spiritually active couples have a far greater chance of going the distance. -Linda Chivington

Growth In Jesus

THE HOLY & THE COMMON THE UNCLEAN & THE CLEAN LESSONS FROM LEVITICUS

Week Twenty-Six: The Spring Holy Days (Leviticus 23)

The Jewish holy days are significant to us in multiple ways. For example, a number of the key events in the formation of the church of Christ were closely associated with the holidays on which they fell. But their greatest significance is in teaching us several vital aspects of our relationship with God that we ought to celebrate and remember. They were a crucial part of keeping the Israelites focused on their relationship with God, and likewise can help Christians to mature and draw close to God.

The Levitical holidays fell into two groups of special times, one set in spring and another set in autumn. The spring holy days are outlined in verses 5-22, and include the Passover, the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and the Feast of Weeks (or Harvest). The first two are well known, and are closely related. The Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread commemorated events that took place shortly before Leviticus, when God delivered his people from Egyptian slavery. For Christians, the Passover has a historical significance, in that it was at the time of the Passover that Jesus was arrested and executed. It also has a deeper significance, in that believers will be passed over when judgment comes to the rest of the world, on the Last Day. We can anticipate and celebrate this "pass-over" now.

The Passover observance continued immediately into the Feast of Unleavened Bread, when for one

week they could not eat leavened bread or perform heavy work, and were to carry out other observances, on the first and seventh days of this period. The abstinence from yeast was to remind them of their exit from Egypt, when their haste required them to eat unleavened bread only (i.e. that had no time to rise). In the New Testament, yeast is used to refer to impurity. Thus, for Christians, the symbolism is that on the heels of realizing how we have been passed over, i.e. rescued from condemnation, we ought to abstain from any impurity, any "yeast" that would make us unclean.

Seven weeks after the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Israelites observed the Feast of Weeks (or Harvest). Part of the earlier Feast was a ceremonial presentation of one sheaf of wheat from the firstfruits of the spring wheat harvest. Fifty days later, the Feast of Weeks celebrated the full harvest with a day of rest and sacrifices. Later in their history, the Jews associated this Feast with the giving of the law to Moses, but its original purpose was to celebrate the harvest. It is unique in being the only "feast" when an offering of leavened bread was to be made. This feast was a joyful celebration of the harvest God had given them, and so it was appropriate for them to bring the carefully made, leavened bread which they ate and enjoyed daily, remembering who gave it to them. For Christians, this is another important reminder, calling us to notice and appreciate the ways that God takes care of our basic needs. Living in a society blessed with a surfeit of material goods, even Christians usually feel thankful only for unusually good things. We need to take note of the hundreds of things that God provides for us every day to make life possible and bearable. None of us could meet our own needs for one minute, and we ought to take steps to show God we appreciate his grace.

- Mark W. Garner

Family Information

Food Pantry Needs

The Food Pantry is in need of the following: kleenex, paper towels, shampoo, toothpaste, spaghetti, hot chocolate, dry beans.

Prayers Requested

Helen Coate (Warren Coate's Mother) had surgery on her leg which was found to be cancerous and more surgery is required. Please pray for Helen and her family.

Sweet Revenge

It is reported that a man in Massachusetts many years ago found his neighbor's horse in his field. He was angry about it and took the horse to the public pound.

Meeting the owner soon after this, he told him what he had done, and added, "If I catch him there again, I will do the same thing."

The neighbor replied, "Well, the other night I looked out of my window and saw your cattle in my field. I took your cattle and drove them over to your house, and put them in your barn, and fixed the gate. If I catch them here again, I will do the same thing."

That man was so struck with his neighbor's soft reply that he at once took the horse out of the pound and paid the charges himself.

John F. Brand
Echoes From the Brierpatch

Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 am
Sunday Worship Service	10:30 am
Sunday Evening	5:30 pm
Wednesday Evening	7:00 pm

Elders: Wilbur Allen, Frank Chappell, Roy Estep, Gene Prince, Ray Thorne
Deacons: Brian Arnold, Tom Barnhardt, Joe Barozzini, John Bradley, Steve Carver, Lynn Champney, Darrell Estep, Jack Evans, Don Gillespie, Lou Lawrence, Sam Leslie, Jack Mauersberg, Beryl McMasters, Mark Morris, Charlie Yates
Evangelists: Mike Hipes, Tom Barnhardt

Calendar

March

15	50's Plus Meeting
18	Leadership Devotional
19	50's Plus "Eat Out Sunday"
24	COCS Grandparents Day

April

1	Leadership Devotional
3-7	COCS Spring Break
5	50's Plus Meeting
9	Services At Willow Brook
15	Leadership Devotional
16	50's Plus "Eat Out Sunday"
19	50's Plus Meeting
29	Leadership Devotional
29	Jean Williamson and David Leslie Wedding in Cleveland Ohio
30	5th Sunday Activity

Shut Ins

Please remember and pray for the following members (cards would be appreciated):
Helen Williams.

Contributions

Last Week	\$7650	Avg YTD	\$5643
Russia	\$258	Avg YTD	\$218
Youth Min.	\$223	Avg YTD	\$239

Northland Church of Christ 4581 Cleveland Ave. Columbus, OH 43231 (614) 475-0161

N O R T H L A N D Messenger

Volume 9, Number 11
March 12, 2000

If God Should Go On Strike

How good it is that God above has never gone on strike,
 Because He was not treated fair in things He didn't like,
 If only once He'd give up and said, "That's it, I'm through!
 I've had enough of those on Earth, so this is what I'll do,
 I'll give my order to the Sun: Cut off the heat supply!
 And to the Moon: Give no more light, and run the oceans dry.
 Then just to make things really tough and put the pressure on,
 Turn off the vital oxygen till every breath is gone!"
 You know He would be justified, if fairness was the game,
 For no one has been more abused or met with more disdain.
 Thank God, and yet He carries on, supplying you and me
 With all the favors of His grace, and everything for free.
 Men say they want a better deal, and so on strike they go,
 But what a deal we've given God to whom all things we owe.
 We don't care whom we hurt to gain the things we like;
 But what a mess we'd all be in, if God should go on strike.

The Beacon

Serving God

Renewing our Relationships in Marriage

Pt 4 Humor

"A glad heart makes a cheerful countenance." Prv 15:13a

"A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a downcast spirit dries up the bones." Prv 17:22

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven...a time to weep and a time to laugh." Ecc 3:1, 4a

How often have you thought or heard someone say, "I'd love to meet a man who is attractive, sweet and has a great sense of humor?" It seems that humor, generally speaking, is high on our priority lists in looking for a mate. We like to be in the company of someone who lifts our spirits and makes us laugh.

Humor is a gift from God. Even one of our great spiritual patriarchs got his name through laughter (look it up if you don't remember)! God does work in mysterious ways, and quite often funny ones. Look at some of the things that he's done in your own life and you'll probably see what I mean.

Some things are just naturally funny, like how a child looks after eating a bowl of chocolate pudding, and some things humans think up to make each other laugh, like Rocky and Bullwinkle cartoons. "Good humor is goodness and wisdom combined (E. Bulwer-Lytton)." We must be wise in our words—using our sense of humor as a tool for spirit-lifting and edification and not as a weapon to disguise insults.

As married people, we need to consider carefully our motives in our jesting. Are we making little "jabs" to get our point across? Do we make jokes at our spouse's expense in front of others? "A graceful taunt is worth a thousand insults (L. Nizer)." Mean-spirited joking is surely not what God intended for us to use our humor for. Let's consider our motives when we "kid" with our husbands and wives. To say to your houseguests "I hope you survive dinner, she's cooking her meatloaf" or "I hope the roof doesn't fall in on you, he just tried to repair it" may not go over too well with our spouses! If your spouses aren't insecure in this area, maybe you can get away with it. If they are insecure about their cooking or repairing abilities, it's better not to chance it. You should know your spouse better than anyone. Be wise in what you communicate to them.

We love to be with those who truly make us laugh (whether intentionally or not!); and let's not use the guise of joking to cover up frustrations or criticism. Laughter is a blessing we should all enjoy! "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver (Prov. 25:11)."

Thoughts and Challenges: Use your humor for good! God opens up opportunities for us to encourage one another on a regular basis.

Prayers: Pray that God would help you be wise in the way you use your gift of humor—to bring a little more joy into your spouse's life and to the lives of those around you and to never use as a device to "cut down."

-Linda Chivington

Growth In Jesus

THE HOLY & THE COMMON THE UNCLEAN & THE CLEAN LESSONS FROM LEVITICUS

Week Twenty-Seven
The Fall Holy Days (Leviticus 23)
Holiness & Ministry (Leviticus 24)

The fall holy days are now discussed in Leviticus 23:23-44. They include the Feast of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement, and the Feast of Tabernacles (or Booths), which on our calendar come in September or October. These have a more solemn tone than the spring days. They began on the first day of their seventh month with the Feast of Trumpets. The sounding of trumpets was for the purpose of assembling the people, and sacrifices were then offered. Later in Israel's history, following the Babylonian exile, this day became established as the beginning of the Jewish civil year, and eventually the day became known as Rosh Hashanah, "the first (literally, head) of the year". Most Jews today observe the day primarily for this reason, but its original function was to begin the fall holy days with a solemn convocation.

The Day of Atonement comes on the tenth day of the same month. We have already studied this in detail, in chapter 16, along with its significance to Christians. We see now how it fits into the overall system of special days, coming as part of a set of three special times in the fall.

Finally comes the Feast of Tabernacles (or Booths). Beginning just five days after the Day of Atonement, and lasting for seven days, the people would make themselves booths (literally, tabernacles) to live in, as temporary homes, recalling the temporary homes the Israelites had to have on the exodus from Egypt.

That is, by experiencing a week of being deprived of a fixed home, with all its conveniences, they were reminded in a new way of their dependence on God, and on the debt of gratitude they owed him. Over time, many rituals and activities were added to this feast period. By the time of Jesus, it had become an elaborately planned and observed festival that had lost much of the original significance, and become more of what we would call a festival or feast. For Christians, the lessons of this feast - commemoration of past hardships, and expressing appreciation both for our growth and for the ways God has delivered us - ought to be an important part of our relationship with God.

Chapter 24 is something of a digression, in that it departs from the topic of holy days and special times that are discussed in chapters 23 and 25. The first nine verses of the chapter discuss aspects of the ministry in the tabernacle, such as the proper arrangement of the lampstands, bread, and other objects of worship, to maintain the proper holy symbolism. It is attached to the section on holy days because of the centrality of the tabernacle, which held God's Presence, to the holy days. Lamps (light), for example, are used metaphorically in the Old Testament to represent God's Word and guidance. The consecrated bread has an obvious parallel to the Christian service of the Lord's Supper. The rest of chapter 24 consists of an exhortation against willful profanation, and instructions on what to do if it occurs. A harsh and memorable example of punishing blasphemy is given. God demands severe punishment of such a hardened heart, in order to protect the rest of his people from becoming hardened in blasphemy and profane behavior. Following this example, there is a series of exhortations to shun and punish this type of offense (verses 17-22).

- Mark W. Garner

Family Information

Food Pantry Needs

The Food Pantry is in need of the following: kleenex, jelly, bar soap, paper towels.

Sympathy

We want to express our sympathy to Polly Barnhardt at the death of her father, Don Stover. The funeral was Tuesday in Knoxville, TN

Thank You

I would like to thank you for your prayers, cards and the meals that were provided for us during my recent surgery. Your expressions of concern were greatly appreciated.

Pam Estep

Middle School Teacher Wanted

We are in need of a teacher for the middle school Sunday A.M. class. We have several lady volunteers but we also need a man to help team teach. Please see Charlie Yates.

Nursery

If anyone has a changing table or a crib that they would like to donate to the nursery, see Kim Bachman.

Congratulations

Rob Brown will be graduating from OSU on Friday with a BA in Political Science and a minor in Economics.

Services

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am
 Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am
 Sunday Evening 5:30 pm
 Wednesday Evening 7:00 pm

Elders: Wilbur Allen, Frank Chappell, Roy Estep, Gene Prince, Ray Thorne
Deacons: Brian Arnold, Tom Barnhardt, Joe Barozzini, John Bradley, Steve Carver, Lynn Champney, Darrell Estep, Jack Evans, Don Gillespie, Lou Lawrence, Sam Leslie, Jack Mauersberg, Beryl McMasters, Mark Morris, Charlie Yates
Evangelists: Mike Hipes, Tom Barnhardt

Calendar

March

19 50's Plus "Eat Out Sunday"
 24 COCS Grandparents Day
 27 Secret Sisters Meeting At Willowbrook

April

1 Leadership Devotional
 3-7 COCS Spring Break
 5 50's Plus Meeting
 9 Services At Willow Brook
 15 Leadership Devotional
 16 50's Plus "Eat Out Sunday"
 19 50's Plus Meeting
 27 Secret Sisters Meeting At Willowbrook
 29 Leadership Devotional
 29 Jean Williamson and David Leslie Wedding in Cleveland Ohio
 30 5th Sunday Activity

Secret Sister Reminder

We will be meeting at Willowbrook on Saturday the 25th at 10:00 am. Also the date for our May visit has been set. It will take place on Saturday the 27th.

Jen Cvelbar and Linda Chivington

Contributions

	Last Week	\$5599	Avg YTD	\$5640
Russia	\$175	Avg YTD	\$215	
Youth Min.	\$230	Avg YTD	\$238	

Why God Wouldn't Want Us

Moses stuttered. David's armor didn't fit. Jacob was a liar. David had an affair. Abraham was too old. David was too young. Timothy had ulcers. Peter was afraid. Naomi was a widow. Paul was a murderer. So was Moses. Jonah ran from God. Miriam was a gossip. Gideon and Thomas both doubted.

Jeremiah was depressed and suicidal. Elijah was burned out. John the Baptist was a loudmouth. Martha was a worrywart. Mary was lazy. Samson had long hair. Noah got drunk.

Did I mention that Moses had a short fuse? So did Peter, Paul, well, lots of folks do. But God doesn't require a job interview. He doesn't hire and fire like most bosses.

God doesn't look at financial gain or loss. He's not prejudiced or partial, grudging, sassy, or brassy, not deaf to our cry, not blind to our need.

As much as we try, God's gifts are free. We could do some wonderful things for wonderful people and still not be...Wonderful.

Satan says, "You're not worthy." Jesus says, "So what? I AM." Stan looks back and sees our mistakes. God looks back and sees the cross. He doesn't calculate what you did in '78 or '88. It's not even on the record.

Sure. There are lots of reasons why God shouldn't want us. But if we are in love with Him, if we hunger for Him more than our next breath, He'll use us... In spite of who we are, where we've been, or what we look like.

Verse A Week Club

"For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength."

1 Corinthians 1:25

NORTHLAND
 Messenger

Volume 9, Number 12

March 19, 2000

Northland Church of Christ 4581 Cleveland Ave. Columbus, OH 43231 (614) 475-0161

Serving God

Renewing Our Relationships in Marriage

Part 5 Fidelity

"He who commits adultery has no sense; he who does it destroys himself. Wounds and dishonor he will get, and his disgrace will not be wiped away." Prov. 6:32-33

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that every one who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart....If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and throw it away; it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell." Mt 5:27-29

There's very little God leaves for interpretation in these passages. What a violation of God's character adultery is! Fidelity is not optional, but expected, and carries with it responsibility...

First and foremost, physical faithfulness is a requirement of married couples (Ex. 20:14). Under the old law, an adulterous person would be stoned to death. Obviously, this shows the severity of the breaking of the covenant.

Emotional faithfulness requires even more control. To keep our bodies pure and true to the marriage covenant is easier than taking our thoughts captive, as well. This is at the heart of the passage from Matthew 5. If you've lusted after someone else, your heart isn't being true to your covenant. To help repair our "heart condition," we must be feeding on the Word of God. If we fill up with God's Spirit, we can more clearly see the foolishness of infidelity. His Word makes that very clear. To keep Satan's army at bay, we must defeat the lies with the Truth, praying and meditating on God's Word.

The demons may make it so subtle at first that you don't even notice it. Television shows or commercials that you used to turn off because of their sexual content don't bother you as much anymore. In fact, you may be starting to seek out things to view solely for arousal. In the age of the internet, it's even more appealing to check out filthy websites in the privacy of your own home (no one will know, right?). Or perhaps it's the new man at work who's paying you lots of extra attention that you don't seem to get from your busy husband these days. It makes you feel desirable again and you love it. He seems to understand and appreciate you more than your husband does, and, well, God wants you to be happy, doesn't he? "Can one walk upon hot coals and his feet not get scorched? (Pr. 6:28)" May God forbid that we listen to Satan's lies and not to Him!

God does not want us to chase after fleshly pleasures, but to have our joy in His promises. He will bless our commitment. When we are truly being faithful to our spouses in body and mind, then we can experience peaceful, rewarding relationships. Pray together. Share with each other your struggles so you can help hold each other accountable. If you trust in Him, God will help enable you to be faithful, as He is faithful.

Thoughts and Challenges:

If you are starting to feel guilt over a relationship or habit that is leading you to break your covenant (in body or mind), *Repent!* It is not worth it. God will bring times of refreshing if you "pluck out" the sin.

Prayers:

Let's pray that God would help convict us of unhealthy thoughts or actions that may lead us to adultery. Whether they're obvious or subtle, we need the wisdom and strength to do what's right and say "no" to ungodliness.

-Linda Chivington

Growth In Jesus

THE HOLY & THE COMMON THE UNCLEAN & THE CLEAN LESSONS FROM LEVITICUS

Week Twenty-Eight: Special Years (Leviticus 25)

This chapter discusses the special Sabbatical and Jubilee years, which implemented the principles behind the holy days on a larger scale. In a given year, the Israelites took a day every so often to make special observances concerning their relationship with God. And, as we see in this chapter, God asked them periodically to take an entire year as a special observance.

God declared that every seventh year was to be a Sabbath year (verses 1-7). Just as every seventh day was a Sabbath on which no self-benefiting work was to be done, during every seventh year the people were to cease from farming the land or working it in any other way, so that the land God had given them could itself have a rest. Besides being a sound agricultural principle, the spiritual point was to call the people to a trusting dependence on God. It is a natural tendency of humans to feel that they need to work and battle constantly to have their needs met. While it is good to have a sense of responsibility, we must also avoid the extreme of thinking that it all depends on us.

Besides the Sabbath years, every 50th year was to be a special Year of Jubilee (verses 8-17). In addition to a prohibition on working the land, the Jubilee year was to see the release of slaves and the return of any land that had been sold (returned to its original owner or family). This amazing set of commands called for the Israelites truly to live by faith (verses 18-22), but also tested their

attitudes (verses 23-55). God wanted his people to realize that their land belonged to him, and was given by him as a special inheritance, to be appreciated and enjoyed, not to be viewed as a means for fulfilling selfish goals. Thus, if someone wanted to use someone else's land, it was acceptable to buy it, but not as a permanent arrangement, only until the Jubilee. Likewise, no one was to view a slave as theirs, but only as a temporary employee or servant until the Jubilee. Historically, the observance of the Sabbath and Jubilee years did not last, although it is not possible to determine exactly when they stopped being practiced. It is known with certainty that the Jubilee was obsolete by the time of the return from Babylonian exile, and it probably had either not been observed for many years before that, based on the images of oppression that we see in many of the prophets. If followed faithfully, the Jubilee laws would practically have eliminated the existence of a permanent lower class in society.

Living a holy life requires that we understand that not only ourselves, but everything we have, belongs to God alone. Christians must constantly combat the culturally-instilled attitudes of selfish ambition and possessiveness. In this sense, the principles taught by the Sabbath year are just as important to us as they were to Israel. And we also must constantly remind ourselves that nothing truly belongs to us. The Jubilee year was a powerful reminder that a person cannot have a material or worldly possession forever. We must constantly remind ourselves of this same point, so that we do not become engrossed in the things that God sends us as blessings. Do not allow what was meant as a blessing to become a snare instead.

- Mark W. Garner

Family Information

Food Pantry Needs

The Food Pantry is in need of the following: kleenex, bar soap, jelly, laundry detergent.

Thank You

I would like to thank everyone for all the cards, prayers, meals and expressions of concern for me these past several days. God is increasing my strength daily and I am grateful to be a part of his family. Thanks again.

Jane West and Family

Banquet

Dates have just been confirmed for the Northland Church Banquet which will be on Sunday, May 21st at 5:30 p.m. at Monaco's Palace next door. More details to follow as committees and plans are formed.

Childcare Provider Needed

Dave and Kristin Maynard need a loving person to care for their 3 children from 3 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. Tuesday - Thursday afternoons in their home or in a home on the Hawthorne School bus route. The position would begin Tuesday, April 11th. Dave and Kristin live in the Westerville Woods subdivision off of Westerville Road north of Morse Road. If you are interested, see Dave or Kristin or call them at 523-1794.

Services

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am
 Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am
 Sunday Evening 5:30 pm
 Wednesday Evening 7:00 pm

Elders: Wilbur Allen, Frank Chappell, Roy Estep, Gene Prince, Ray Thorne
Deacons: Brian Arnold, Tom Barnhardt, Joe Barozzini, John Bradley, Steve Carver, Lynn Champney, Darrell Estep, Jack Evans, Don Gillespie, Lou Lawrence, Sam Leslie, Jack Mauersberg, Beryl McMasters, Mark Morris, Charlie Yates
Evangelists: Mike Hipes, Tom Barnhardt

Calendar

April

1	Leadership Devotional
5	50's Plus Meeting
9	Services At Willow Brook
15	Leadership Devotional
16	50's Plus "Eat Out Sunday"
19	50's Plus Meeting
29	Leadership Devotional
29	Jean Williamson and David Leslie Wedding in Cleveland Ohio
30	5th Sunday Activity

Middle School Teacher

We are in need of a teacher for the middle school Sunday A.M. class. We have several lady volunteers but we also need a man to help team teach. Please see Charlie Yates.

Shut Ins

Please remember and pray for the following members (cards would be appreciated):
 Helen Williams.

Contributions

Last Week	\$6781	Avg YTD	\$5727
Russia	\$743	Avg YTD	\$255
Youth Min.	\$348	Avg YTD	\$247

Northland Church of Christ 4581 Cleveland Ave. Columbus, OH 43231 (614) 475-0161

N O R T H L A N D Messenger

Families That Pray Together

George Barna has noted that the divorce rate for Christians is about two percent higher than the national average. George Gallup has pointed out that couples who pray together four times or more a week have a divorce rate of one to 1,052. Praying couples not only practice an important spiritual discipline, they also experience a powerful and stabilizing by-product.

I remember making a pair of plaster hands in Vacation Bible School as a kid. The inscription said, "The family that prays together, stays together." Gallup's polling supports that conclusion.

There are so many things that are important ingredients in building strong and healthy families. Godliness is foundational. Spiritual intimacy is one of the most significant dimensions in building a healthy and full marital intimacy. Spirituality is one of the key traits of strong families.

Praying together as a family can be a powerful tool in creating greater unity, concern, and selflessness in the family. The practice does not need to be long, formal, or highly structured. It should not be forced but done with simplicity and genuineness. The fabric of family strength is often woven together through the strands of consistent and genuine prayer.

Children can learn much about prayer by praying with their parents. When it is a regular part of the family life, it signals its importance to the kids and helps point them to God. What parents say will usually have more impact when kids see Mom's and Dad's words matched with living. In prayer, families can seek forgiveness, wisdom, direction, and communication with Christ. In that experience, love is communicated, felt, and personalized.

Prayer is not the only thing families can do to grow in health and godliness. There are several other spiritual disciplines as well as sound psychological insights.

Strong churches need real Christians. The top challenge of our day and our culture does not lie on some distant shore. It is in our own house. We believe we are called to reach the world with the gospel, but we must first reach our families. Someone has noted that if our Christianity does not work at home, it will not really work anywhere else. We can build healthy, strong, and godly families. Praying together helps.

James Rudy Gray

Volume 9, Number 13
 March 26, 2000

Serving God

Renewing Our Relationships in Marriage Part 6 Peacemaking

"If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all." Rom 12:18

"Better is a dry morsel with quiet than a house full of feasting with strife." Prv 17:1
"He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor requite us according to our iniquities. As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us." Ps 103:10, 12

Peace. We all crave it and long for it— to be at peace with God and our spouses. How can we experience this sometimes elusive peace?

Do you remember when your sweetheart could do no wrong? Every day was poetry and song? The time to meet together never came quickly enough. Then perhaps, over time, you discovered that his punctuality left room for improvement or that her mood swings kept you at a disadvantage. And there you have it— the first fight. He blames her for being hypersensitive, and she blames him for everything from insensitivity to the state of the world today. Spound familiar? Somewhere in our courtship, we decided that we could live with these character flaws and love each other anyway. We had on rose-colored glasses and could only see the good and positive...are we still looking for the positive now?

Our home environment can speak volumes about our peacemaking abilities. Do we wait, at times, to jump on the petty things that come up? Are we eager to complain or state our cases? "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God (Mt 5:9)." When we bicker and complain, we are wasting precious time with one another and not living the life God would have us live. Obviously, if there is sin that needs to be addressed, we need to do so, in love, though many of our arguments simply come down to our "rights" and wants.

When we desire peace with the Father, we need to meditate on His forgiving nature and faithful promises. "Thou, O Lord, art a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness (Ps 86:15)." We experience this gift of grace from our Father—can't we extend this to our husbands and wives? In light of what our Father has endured from us, it seems reasonable that we should be willing to share this spirit of peacemaking with the closest person to us. "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you...let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid (Jn 14:27)." Christ extends this peace even though our sins ultimately compelled him to the cross. That should enable us to find comfort in His grace and spur us to pass it on!

Thoughts and Challenges:

Let's drop the petty arguments that have nothing in them to benefit anyone and press on to developing peace in our homes and marriages.

Prayers:

May God grant us the willingness to be "wronged" (ouch!) and place our spouses above ourselves.

-Linda Chivington

Growth In Jesus

THE HOLY & THE COMMON THE UNCLEAN & THE CLEAN LESSONS FROM LEVITICUS Week Twenty-Nine Conditions of Covenant Blessings (Leviticus 26:1-13)

Leviticus 26 sets forth a simple principle: godly living brings contentment and joy, but selfish living brings pain and frustration. There is a parallel exposition in Deuteronomy 28. The principle is explained using details of the many ways in which God can make our lives either pleasurable or painful. But it is important to note that these literal examples are not the main point. God is simply explaining the natural consequences of our choices, whether good or bad. God is not arbitrary in determining that we will be joyful if we are holy and frustrated when we are selfish. Both are the natural result of the choice we make. As a holy people, we belong to God exclusively, and are no longer part of this world. Thus, when we live our lives by those principles, we are living as we were meant to, and thus we will find harmony, peace, and security in our lives. But if we live in and for this world, we are fighting against the nature of what God has made us to be, and this must inevitably bring frustration and despair.

God first discusses the combination of holy living, blessings, and joy (Lev. 26:1-13). He promises an idealized life for those who follow and obey him: the land will give them all the food they need (v. 3-5), they will experience peace and victory (v. 6-8), their numbers will increase (v. 9), and there will be an abundance of everything (v. 10). Most importantly, God will put his dwelling place

among them, and walk among them, so that they can live in his presence (v. 11-13). On a literal level, while life for the Israelites was usually better when they stayed close to God, all of these things did not always occur even when they were faithful.

That is because there is a deeper meaning to these promises, and a deeper blessing that God is promising. Rather than guaranteeing that everything would go the way they wanted it, God assures them that to the faithful, everything in life is a blessing. God is not merely a *quid pro quo* monitor who sends immediate reward and punishment for every action. It is sad that even many Christians have this trivialized view of God, which profanes his holiness by dismissing the value of any blessings that are not of this world.

Living in God's presence does make everything a blessing when we adjust our perspective. Anything we have in this world is perishable and uncertain. Even if we manage to hold on to all of our earthly treasures for our entire lives, we must give them back when we die. But if we will open our eyes, we have more valuable things that we own now and will have forever. We have friends, our brothers & sisters in the Lord, with whom our relationships will never end. We have a place prepared for us in God's house, and all the gifts he gives us now are but a minute portion of the blessings we shall have when we get home. We have much else beyond what we can detail here: a purpose in life, the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the opportunity to commune with our Creator whenever we wish, and many more. It is simply a matter of adjusting our perspective, and opening our spiritual eyes, to see what we have.

- Mark W. Garner

Family Information

Food Pantry Needs

The Food Pantry is in need of the following: kleenex, bar soap, jelly, laundry detergent.

Banquet

Dates have just been confirmed for the Northland Church Banquet which will be on Sunday, May 21st at 5:30 p.m. at Monaco's Palace next door. More details to follow as committees and plans are formed.

Weigh Down Workshop

If you are interested in becoming a part of the Weigh Down Workshop, there will be new sessions available in mid April. Orientation will be Tuesday, April 11 at 7 p.m. for ladies only and on Wednesday, April 12 for the co-ed class. Classes will begin the following week. If you have questions, please see Ray Thorne or Leona Hopkins.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who gave time, money, food, vans, and prayers for our high school retreat. It was a wonderful time together and God spoke to us. We are so blessed by God through all of you.

Teens and parents of teens, please remember the lock-in here on Friday April 7. Please see Cindi Gillespie for details. **The Tiffin Rd.** congregation in Findlay is hosting a ladies retreat, April 14-15. Several sisters from Northland have attended in the past and have been very encouraged. See Vicki for more details.

Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 am
Sunday Worship Service	10:30 am
Sunday Evening	5:30 pm
Wednesday Evening	7:00 pm

Elders: Wilbur Allen, Frank Chappell, Roy Estep, Gene Prince, Ray Thorne
Deacons: Brian Arnold, Tom Barnhardt, Joe Barozzini, John Bradley, Steve Carver, Lynn Champney, Darrell Estep, Jack Evans, Don Gillespie, Lou Lawrence, Sam Leslie, Jack Mauersberg, Beryl McMasters, Mark Morris, Charlie Yates
Evangelists: Mike Hipes, Tom Barnhardt

Calendar

April

5	50's Plus Meeting
9	Services At Willow Brook
11	Weigh Down Workshop Orientation For Ladies Only - 7 p.m.
12	Weigh Down Workshop Orientation Co - Ed 7 p.m.
15	Leadership Devotional
16	50's Plus "Eat Out Sunday"
19	50's Plus Meeting
29	Leadership Devotional
29	Jean Williamson and David Leslie Wedding in Cleveland Ohio
30	5th Sunday Activity

Shut Ins

Please remember and pray for the following members (cards would be appreciated): Helen Williams.

Contributions

Last Week	\$6180	Avg YTD	\$5760
Russia	\$215	Avg YTD	\$252
Youth Min.	\$380	Avg YTD	\$256

Northland Church of Christ 4581 Cleveland Ave. Columbus, OH 43231 (614) 475-0161

The New Bi-Millennium

As I sit contemplating the times, I have come to view the year 2000 as the start of a new bi-millennium. We've done 2000 years already, and we're starting on our next 2000.

So, then, how are we looking – how do we compare today with 2000 years ago? Well, back in the old days, Christians were torn asunder in arenas. Today, Christians are ripped apart by the courts and the media. 2000 years ago people were hero worshippers (see Hercules, The Movie). Today people are hero worshippers. 2000 years ago nations killed and pillaged people unlike themselves. Today nations kill and pillage people unlike themselves. 2000 years ago people tried to figure out who Jesus was and what he was up to. Today people are still trying to figure out who Jesus is and what He is up to.

After looking at all these goings-on, I've got some good news and some bad news. The good news is - Jesus hasn't changed. The bad news is - we haven't either. Let's look at some church stuff. How about in the first bi-millennium when the church devoted themselves to the apostles teachings – everybody was together – they even sold their stuff and gave to whoever had need (Acts 2:42). Well, there is some of that going around but just don't ask us to sell the good stuff and make sure I can get a tax break on anything I shell out. And how about back in the good old first bi-millennium when we were told to entertain strangers and remember the prisoners (Hebrews 13:2-3), or when they said to look after the orphans and widows in their distress (James 1:27). Well here in the new bi-millennium, strangers and prisoners just plain scare us and widows and orphans seem to put the 'Fear of God' in us (they scare us too).

Maybe these aren't fair comparisons, but sometimes I can't help but think that if Christ were to do the same comparison He might just raise an eyebrow or two. Well, maybe we're just saving the really good stuff for our kids. "Train a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not turn from it." (Proverbs 22:6). I guess I can't figure how R rated movies fit into that training or maybe video games like Mortal Combat, or long-houred jobs, or purity stealing dating or even those pocket (book) monsters Pokemon (Pikachu, Bulbasaur).

How are we training our children? Fortunately God's plan for his people has not changed. It remains simple – not necessarily easy – but simple. "If you love me you will obey what I command." (John 14:15). The stuff in the Bible is God speaking to us, the Holy Spirit is God living within us, and the cross is God reaching out to us. God can handle this new bi-millennium, just as he handled the old one. Just keep the faith and God will bring you and yours through all this millennial mess. Oh, and one last thing – don't let it bother you but the millennium technically doesn't start until next year.

Charlie Yates

N O R T H L A N D
 Messenger

April 2, 2000
 Volume 9, Number 14

Serving God

Renewing Our Relationships in Marriage

Part 7 Prayer

"And this is the confidence which we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us." 1 Jn 5:14

"Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil." Ecc 4:9

"The prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effects." You've heard that verse, I'm sure. But how true do we really think it is?

When you've experienced trials in your marriage (and unless you've only been married a couple of hours, we've *all* had them!) prayer should be our first response. "Is any among you suffering? Let him pray...confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed (Jas 5:13, 16)." I could go on and on—in the book of James alone. Prayer is a powerful way of life. Confessing our sins to one another and praying for each other brings about such spiritual growth and unity!

But why pray if our Father "knows what we need before we ask him (Mt 6:8)"? My perception of this is very dimly reflected in a parent-child relationship. A father will care for his child (Lk 11:13). Will he feed the child lunch at lunchtime? Yes. The cabinet is full. Will he feed the child peanut butter and jelly? Perhaps. If the child asks politely for peanut butter and jelly, do you think his chances increase for getting it? If nothing else has been planned for the menu, I would think so. How about if a child is struggling with zipping her coat. She is unwilling to ask mom for help, though mom is watching close by. The mother watches while the daughter tugs and pulls and cries at this loathsome coat. Finally, the child relents and asks for help. I am that child sometimes with God. Are you?

I say these things not to over-simplify God's wisdom and planning, but to show that sometimes we make it harder than it needs to be. We need to rely on him as his children, trusting him to love us and meet our needs in his own wisdom and timing. As married couples and children of God, we can encourage each other and pray together to our one Father. What an intimate time to be sharing our hearts with our Father and also with our spouses! I've mentioned before that statistically, praying couples have a far greater chance of sticking together. Why wouldn't they? When we share more than the physical and dig deep into the heart and spirit, then can we truly understand what intimacy is—and surely God will bless us in our faith!

Thoughts and Challenges:

Try not to be shy about praying with your spouse—it's a two-fold blessing.

Prayers:

Like me, I think we all need to pray for God to increase our faith. As Jesus told the father of a demon-possessed child, "All things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" Let's also pray to be prepared for the ways in which God chooses to answer our requests for greater faith—God is very creative!

-Linda Chivington

Growth In Jesus

THE HOLY & THE COMMON THE UNCLEAN & THE CLEAN LESSONS FROM LEVITICUS

Week Thirty

The Misery of the Unholy (Leviticus 26:14-39)

God then presents the other alternative, that of selfish living, which leads to misery and frustration (Lev. 26:14-39). Again this is presented through literal examples. Those who do not listen to God, and do not obey, shall be harassed by their enemies (v. 14-17), shall find the land and nature hostile to them (v. 18-22), and shall be tormented with invasion, disease, ruin, and countless other afflictions (v. 23-39).

Once again, there is a deeper meaning. God is hardly so spiteful or small-minded that he needs to send immediate and obvious punishment towards those who disobey. In fact, it is not hard to find examples of humans who live in open rebellion against God's call, yet are blessed by worldly standards. But he is warning them that if they do not live as he calls them to, they will find all of their lives a burden and a curse, even if they have what they need. Those who live selfishly are always beset with fears, jealousies and envy, resentments, and the like, because living for self and for this world can never be satisfying. It can never bring us to a point where we have enough, and are sure we won't lose it. Living for self is fighting against the way God made us, and cannot bring peace or happiness for more than a short time.

So much of human suffering is self-inflicted! So many humans sadly think of their lives and

themselves as worthless because they view them from the wrong perspective. We were given life in order to seek and serve God, not to accumulate earthly treasure or acclaim. Those humans who insist upon using their lives to serve a fleshly agenda will inevitably "pierce themselves with many grief" (1 Timothy 6:10). Such persons often are also the ones who cause the most sufferings for others.

Yet, should we ever be on the wrong side of these conditions, God assures us that rejection is never complete or final (Lev. 26:40-46). No matter what attitudes or actions we have selfishly indulged in, no matter what price we have paid inside ourselves, God is ready to take us back and pour out his love on us, if only we will confess our folly and ask to return. Why would any rational person not pay this price? For the cost of humbling ourselves and admitting we cannot run our own lives, which is truly no cost at all (since it is absolutely true for every human being ever born), he will completely remove the burden of a lifetime's worth of sins and follies.

By the way, this is a good illustration of God's grace in the Old Testament. Benighted unbelievers (and often Christians who should know better) often say that "the Old Testament God" is different from "the New Testament one", because the New Testament God showed grace. In truth, God showed just as much grace in the Old Testament as in the New. This is obvious to anyone who reads the Old Testament with any real degree of comprehension, and seeks to know God rather than to explain away his Word.

- Mark W. Garner

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Shut Ins

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 Helen Williams.

Contributions

Last Week	\$4973	Avg YTD	\$5707
Russia	\$190	Avg YTD	\$248
Youth Min.	\$485	Avg YTD	\$271

Northland Church of Christ 4581 Cleveland Ave. Columbus, OH 43231 (614) 475-0161

At Home On This Earth

Malcolm Muggeridge once said, "The ultimate disaster that can befall us is to feel ourselves at home on this earth."

Why is this the ultimate disaster? Because making plans and priorities based on what we see removes the element of believing God for the unseen.

When we become too earthbound, we're asking for trouble – worry, depression, panic, fear, and greed. And the list goes on and on. All of these emotions deal with holding onto the people and possession that are part of life on this earth. So this is a message for those who own citizenship in another world, since only those of us who see ourselves as sojourners on earth have any inkling that we are not permanent residents here, that we are just camping out!

The average newscast usually mentions something about our world that is wearing out or being used up, along with the name of some person or group who is willing to go to extreme measures to save the planet from destruction. These people are to be commended for their efforts, though the Bible tells us that their cause is only temporary. "The World and its desires pass away..." (1 John 2:17). Since we know it's all going to go up in smoke someday, believers need to keep their tent poles loose if we want to stay emotionally healthy, spiritually tuned in, and ready for a new heaven and a new earth.

"Don't be too earthbound" is a popular piece of advice. "Great," you say. "But how do I avoid it?"

Try these suggestions for living like a stranger on the earth:

1. **Each morning, wake up determined to take God at His word, no matter what happens.** He has hold us that He is in control. If your citizenship is in heaven, you can bow to His sovereignty and believe that no matter how chaotic and bizarre circumstances may seem, our God reigns.
2. **Don't try to measure God's fairness by what happens.** It wasn't fair for Jesus to have to hang on a cross, but we know now that there was a purpose far beyond what could be seen. Jesus Himself gave the whole situation to "God who judges righteously" (1 Peter 2:23 NASB). The last chapter hasn't been written, but justice will prevail.
3. **Keep reading His Word.** That's where God gives us a glimpse of the other land of which we are citizens and of the kingdom where He reigns. It's almost like reading a travel book before visiting a foreign country.

If you are feeling too much at home on earth and you are worried, depressed, and panicky, maybe you should take some time to ponder the Book and think about the wonderful journey we will all soon be taking. Jan Silvius

N O R T H L A N D
 Messenger

Volume 9, Number 15

April 9, 2000

Serving God

Renewing Our Relationships in Marriage

Part 8 Fasting

"If two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven."

Mt 18:19

"Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." Php 4:6

"Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer." I Cor 7:5

Jesus Christ...Gandhi...ascetic monks? Who or what does the word "fasting" make you think of? Contrary to what we believe sometimes, fasting is not something intended only for the "super-spiritual." Any of us who have the desire to please God can purposefully fast (though those of you with health concerns may need to make a sacrifice of a different kind).

Generally speaking, the references to fasting in the Bible involve repentance and/or appeal. In Joel 2:12 the Lord says to his wayward people, "Return to me with all your heart, with fasting, weeping, and mourning and rend your hearts and not your garments." After this he promises to bless them abundantly. In I Samuel 7:5 God's people gather to fast in repentance; immediately after they fast and Samuel cries out to God for them, the Lord throws the incoming Philistines into confusion and they are routed by the Jews. These two powerful examples of contrite and sacrificial hearts, to me, show why fasting was practiced then and why it should still be today. It shows God that we are serious.

In the book of Esther, she calls for a 3-day fast for the Jews; for herself and for her maids as an appeal to God for deliverance for the Jews and for her own safety in approaching the king uninvited. As you remember, God blesses her faith and the Jews are spared from the plotting against them. Esther felt the gravity of the situation and appealed for divine help, and she included many others in her fast.

I often need to remind myself that there's so much encouragement to be gained when praying or fasting together as a married couple, as well. And honestly, I feel it helps to keep you accountable to stick to it! When things come up that weigh heavily on your heart, place them in God's hands and pray about them—fast instead of seeking comfort in food. Whether it's your children's salvation or the soul of someone you're sharing the gospel with or whether it's a certain sin that keeps plaguing you, show God that you are serious and give up food for a day or two. Pray and wait upon the Lord. As couples, Paul addresses the issue of not withholding intimacy from each other except by agreement for a short time in order to pray and fast. This implies that there are times when couples may feel the need to fast (in this context either through abstinence or through not eating). Let's be willing to take "radical" action like fasting and praying together when God places it on our hearts.

Thoughts and Challenges:

May we not sell ourselves short! We really can do this, through God's Spirit. Read about Jesus' fast in Lk 4 and a day or two won't seem so bad! Jesus in Mt 6 gives us instructions for when we fast. Notice he doesn't say if...

Prayers:

Let's pray that God would strengthen us to serve him in this way—he doesn't ask any more of us than we can handle through him. The rewards are sweeter than the food we'll miss!

-Linda Chivington

Growth In Jesus

THE HOLY & THE COMMON THE UNCLEAN & THE CLEAN LESSONS FROM LEVITICUS

Week Thirty-One Vows & Redemption (Leviticus 27)

At first glance, this chapter's detailed instructions on vows seem to hold little relevance for us. And no doubt many Israelites followed them mechanically at best, failing to see the meaning behind them. But the concept of a vow relates directly to the key Leviticus theme of holiness, and so this is a fitting chapter with which to conclude the book and our study.

Just as today we ask God for many things that we desire, the Israelites would often pray for a child, for a good crop, for victory in battle, or something else, with the promise of a special offering to be made if and when the prayer was granted by God. This type of offering is referred to as a votive offering. Sometimes the vow offered one's very self to God, in permanent service, whether in the tabernacle (or later in the temple) or in some other capacity.

Sometimes it happened that when it came time to make the votive offering, it was either not possible to do so (if, for example, a promised animal had died or had become unacceptable as an offering) or the worshiper did not wish to. God realized this, and provided a system of redemption that is set forth here in Leviticus 27. The offering did not have to be made as originally promised, but the offerer needed to realize that his or her vow made the promised offering holy, belonging to God, and thus a price needed to be paid if the person wanted it back. Therefore, prices are assigned for redeeming (i.e. reclaiming) a promised object. The price varies

depending on whether one promised a person, i.e. promised oneself or one's family in service (v. 1-8), an animal (v. 9-13), or physical property (v. 14-25). On the general theme of giving, he also reminds them of special conditions on giving animals (v. 26-29), since the firstborn of domestic animals already belonged to God, and institutes the principle of tithing (v. 30-33), with its implications for redemption.

It is interesting and significant that God knows how easily we can change our minds, or how easily circumstances can change, and provides an escape clause to relieve us of the full consequences of an ill-considered or unlucky vow. But at the same time, it is inappropriate to deny completely the vow that was made, and the vow must still be redeemed. Note that the prices set for redeeming promised things are quite high, and would by no means have encouraged thoughtless vows. The key principle is that anything pledged to God, whether as a vow or some other type of promise, becomes holy. It is not appropriate to ask God to overlook our promise, even if it was ill-considered. Making something holy is a significant commitment! We as Christians also must learn to redeem our vows, promises, and other words, and to discipline ourselves against boasting that we cannot fulfill.

Further, as Christians we should remember our most important vow. When we were baptized into Christ, confessing Jesus as our Lord, we gave ourselves to him. We became sanctified and holy, not a part any longer of this world, and belonging to God alone, not even to ourselves. We gave to God our lives, our time, our abilities. These are now holy, and we must live a life that "redeems" them appropriately. The entire book of Leviticus has given us a call and command to "be holy, for I am holy".

-Mark W. Garner

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Area Wide Evening Worship

Alum Creek Church cordially invites all the Central Ohio churches of Christ to attend an area wide joint worship service on Sunday evening, April 30, at Olentangy High School in the auditorium. This assembly of the saints will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. and will be immediately followed by a time of fellowship with snacks and refreshments in the commons area. Olentangy High School is located just 10 minutes north of I-270. Take 23 North to Lewis Center Road, turn right on Lewis Center- the school entrance is 1/2 mile east of rt. 23. 675 Lewis Center Road.

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- 19 50's Plus Meeting
- 29 Moving On To Maturity Devotional
- 29 Jean Williamson and David Leslie Wedding in Cleveland Ohio
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- 30 5th Sunday Activity-Area Wide Joint Worship Service At Alum Creek Church Of Christ, 6:30 p.m.
- 30 Short Camp Staff Meeting And Potluck After Morning Services

Camp Staff Meeting

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Shut Ins

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Contributions

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Russia		Avg YTD	
\$320	\$253		
Youth Min.		Avg YTD	
\$540	\$288		

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N O R T H L A N D Messenger

April 16, 2000 Volume 9, Number 16

Remember God, The Almighty!

A street preacher once encountered a heckler who issued a familiar challenge: "If God is so powerful, could He create a stone which He couldn't lift?" The preacher replied, "No, but I see how He could make a donkey talk!" As the crowd laughed heartily, the would-be disrupter quietly slipped away.

Everything around us declares that God is almighty. As David exclaimed, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork" (Ps. 19:1). Jeremiah wrote that God made the earth by His power, established it by His wisdom, and stretched out the heavens by His discretion (Jer. 10:12). In Hebrews, we are informed that Jesus Christ upholds all things by the word of His power (Heb. 13). No one can place limitations upon God's power.

Because God is almighty, His saints are assured that His intervention in their behalf will not be fruitless. He appeared unto Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as God Almighty when He confirmed His covenants with them (Ex. 6:3). It was as the Almighty God that He scattered kings as He went forth before His people (Ps. 68:7,14). Under the shadow of the Almighty is where His saints will find refuge (Ps. 91:1). Because God is almighty, we can be assured that no evil can befall us apart from His will and without His consent.

All around us, we see people that act like they've lost their spiritual moorings. Tossed to and fro by turbulent forces over which they seem to have no control, they cry out for direction and security. What a blessing to be able to tell them about the Almighty God who calms the wind and waves of adverse circumstances and tells the troubled soul, "Peace! Be still!"

Mark Oshman

Serving God

Renewing Our Relationships in Marriage

Pt 9 Selflessness

"Do nothing from selfishness or conceit, but in humility count others better than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others." Php 2:3-4
"I appeal to you, therefore...to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship." Rom 12:1

What a relief that the days of offering animal sacrifices are behind us! Whew! I guess our responsibility to sacrifice is gone...or is it?

If we are selfish with our time, resources, attention or anything else that we should be sharing with God and our families, we need to examine ourselves. "The man who lives by himself and for himself is apt to be corrupted by the company he keeps (C.H. Parkhurst)." If loving someone means placing him or her above yourself, that means sacrifice is a way of life for us as Christians. This obviously means that we present ourselves as living sacrifices to God. Also, we ought to do the same for our children, the lost—and oh, yes, our spouses! If you are like me, you have a tendency to place every one else on your "sacrifice" list ahead of your husband or wife. This certainly should not be!

One practical application for us in marriage begins with a simple concept—be willing to sacrifice whatever is important to you to help meet your husband's or wife's needs. If you notice at 6:00 that your wife has been very busy today and hasn't managed to get dinner ready, do it for her. You may be busy also, but take your time out and serve her in this way. Ladies, if you notice that your husband came home from work on edge and frustrated, ask him what he would like to do tonight. If he'd like to get out by himself for a little while and go work out or take a walk, encourage him to. You've probably had a rough day, too, but serve him in this way. It's amazing how far a little self-sacrifice goes!

Another suggestion is to listen. Not "uh-huh" listening, but genuine eye-contact listening. Attentively give your time to what is important for him or her. Reflect that his opinion is valuable and important. Reflect that her thoughts are valid and interesting. Sacrifice takes time and effort to do successfully. What is a greater sacrifice to us in modern society but our time?

One final suggestion is to consider and immediately acknowledge the other's position. How many arguments could be nipped in the bud by employing this concept! Say you have a telephone misunderstanding. Wife, instead of thinking how you're going to let him have it when he gets home, try thinking "How did he interpret what I said in a way that made him angry?" Husband, instead of being callous and accusing her of being overly sensitive, try thinking "How did my tone hurt her feelings?" What a true sign of selflessness to say "sorry" first! It does seem to be the hardest word. Let's all consider what areas we are selfish in and strive to place them at the foot of the cross.

Thoughts and Challenges:

Selflessness is not easy. Our flesh would have us gratify ourselves wholeheartedly. Our great example of sacrifice is Christ, who endured degradation, whipping, misunderstanding, torture...all for those who put him through it all. It sobers me when I think of the petty things I try to claim "rights" about!

Prayers:

Jn 13:14-15 tells of Jesus washing the disciples' feet. May we pray that God would use us similarly in our marriages.

-Linda Chivington

Growth In Jesus

COME, ALL YOU WHO ARE THIRSTY A STUDY OF ISAIAH 55

Part One: Introduction and Overview

God's call in Isaiah 55:1 to "Come, all you who are thirsty" offers the relief that our souls so badly need. This chapter is one of the Bible's most complete and convincing statements of both our need for God and of the spiritual blessings that come from allowing him the lordship over our lives. The chapter also calls us actively to embrace God's ways and will, to learn them, and to devote our lives to them. This week, we shall start our study with a very brief introduction to the context and topics of Isaiah 55.

There is a basic division in Isaiah between the first 39 chapters, which mostly describe events taking place in Isaiah's own lifetime (with some prophetic links to future events), and the last 27 chapters, which deal almost exclusively with future (to Isaiah) events. Isaiah's life and ministry took place in the 8th century and early 7th century BC. During this time, the Northern Kingdom of God's people (also called Israel, or sometimes Samaria) fell. Because of their unrepentant sin and idolatry, God allowed the pagan Assyrian Empire to overrun them. At the same time, Isaiah's homeland of Judah (the Southern Kingdom) frequently had to decide whether they would trust in God or would turn to worldly sources of strength and power to deal with their problems. Although they often made the right choice (due to Isaiah's influence), God had shown Isaiah that one day he would have to give Judah over to the Babylonians for discipline, so that they could

be re-focused to fulfill his future plans. Isaiah 40-66 looks ahead to this time and beyond, and provides a comprehensive view of the plans God had for his people Israel under both the Old Covenant and the New.

Chapter 55 and its call to come and drink is thus set in this look ahead. Isaiah is not offering answers to worldly or fleshly problems, but is pointing to deeper, spiritual blessings that will meet the real needs of our souls. Isaiah has seen repeatedly, in the tumultuous events of his own long lifetime, the dangers and woes that come from seeking God only because we want him to meet our short-term needs. Isaiah saw keenly the need to understand and appreciate God's grand plan to bring lasting grace, joy, and fellowship to his people through Christ.

The chapter begins with the call for the thirsty to drink (v. 1), through acknowledging God as the source of life. Isaiah points out that our stubborn human efforts to seek valueless things are doomed to futility and frustration (v. 2). God's covenant has stood for centuries, and will continue to stand forever (v. 3-4). Further, God's covenant and plans are for the entire world, and he wills us to be a part of that (v. 5). We should thus delay no longer in calling on him (v. 6-7). God's thoughts are not our thoughts, and his ways are not our ways - thus we ought not to try to force God to accommodate our agendas and plans, but ought to accept his (v. 8-9). We then find that God's word is a great giver of life and growth, producing these wherever it goes (v. 10-11). And we ourselves, lowly though we may be, then become a source of life and peace as we reflect God's glory and will (v. 12-13).

- Mark W. Garner

Family Information

Food Pantry Needs

The Food Pantry is in need of the following: jelly, paper towels, kleenex, tea.

Banquet

Dates have just been confirmed for the Northland Church Banquet which will be on Sunday, May 21st at 5:30 p.m. at Monaco's Palace next door. More details to follow as committees and plans are formed.

Baby Shower

There will be a baby shower for Carol (Hopkins) Daily on Saturday, April 29th at 10:30 a.m. at the home of Cheryl Muir, 6604 Merry Lane. For more information see Ursula Champney, Betty Chappell or Cheryl Muir.

Camp Staff Meeting

There will be a short camp staff meeting/potluck Sunday April 30th after morning services. Please bring a dish for your family and enough to share with a friend. Any questions see Charlie Yates.

Baby Shower

There will be a baby shower for Sarah Crothers on Sunday, May 7th at 2:30 p.m. in the annex. For more information see Brooke Hipes, Margie Hipes, or Betty Chappell

Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 am
Sunday Worship Service	10:30 am
Sunday Evening	5:30 pm
Wednesday Evening	7:00 pm

Elders: Wilbur Allen, Frank Chappell, Roy Estep, Gene Prince, Ray Thorne
Deacons: Brian Arnold, Tom Barnhardt, Joe Barozzini, John Bradley, Steve Carver, Lynn Champney, Darrell Estep, Jack Evans, Don Gillespie, Lou Lawrence, Sam Leslie, Jack Mauersberg, Beryl McMasters, Mark Morris, Charlie Yates
Evangelists: Mike Hipes, Tom Barnhardt

Calendar

April

- 29 Moving On To Maturity Devotional
 29 Jean Williamson and David Leslie Wedding in Cleveland Ohio
 29 Baby Shower For Carol (Hopkins) Daily 10:30 a.m. at Cheryl Muir's Home
 30 5th Sunday Activity-Area Wide Joint Worship Service At Alum Creek Church Of Christ, 6:30 p.m.
 30 Short Camp Staff Meeting And Potluck After Morning Services

May

- 3 50's Plus Meeting
 6 Ruth Rodgers and Bill Nelson Wedding At Northland Church
 7 Baby Shower For Sarah Crothers 2:30 p.m. In The Annex
 13 Moving On To Maturity Devotional

Shut Ins

Please remember and pray for the following members (cards would be appreciated): Helen Williams.

Contributions

Last Week	\$5422	Avg YTD	\$5705
Russia	\$354	Avg YTD	\$259
Youth Min.	\$354	Avg YTD	\$292

N O R T H L A N D M E S S E N G E R

Volume 9, Number 17

April 23, 2000

Trash

We hear the word "trash" used just about every day.

But it isn't always used in the same particular way.

Some speak of the "trash" lying along a road or street.

Others talk about the "trash" they had a chance to meet.

But one thing I have noticed as we travel along life's way,

We will stop and pick up some "trash" we see and take it to our house that day.

Then we will avoid the other "trash", Making it widely known that we don't want to have anything to do with them, In a harsh and bitter tone.

But one thing we need to remember !

It isn't the "trash" we see, "In as much as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me" Matt. 25:45.

Maude Prince

*"He will reply, I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me."
 Matthew 25:45*

Serving God

Renewing Our Relationships in Marriage

Part 10 Forgiveness

"He has shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Mic 6:8

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." Eph 4:32

"He who forgives an offense seeks love, but he who repeats a matter alienates a friend (Pro 17:9)." Are we seeking the love of our spouses or are we alienating them by the things we do and say?

"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy (Mt 5:7)." Do you ever feel tempted to bring up past sins or offenses when you have an argument with your husband or wife? Our human nature loves to hold a "justified" grudge. Why wouldn't we? When we can turn a situation to our advantage, our flesh would have us jump at the chance. However, after a heated situation is resolved and the forgiveness takes place, it is to remain buried. Think of Jesus talking about the "seventy times seven" principle. The last thing I would wish out of life is to reach heaven only to find Jesus looking sternly at me and reading me a lengthy list of all the times I've sinned and never showing me his grace. What a horrifying thought!

"'I can forgive, but I cannot forget,' is only another way of saying, 'I will not forgive.' Forgiveness ought to be like a cancelled note—torn in two, and burned up, so that it can never be shown against one (H. W. Beecher)." As difficult as it may be, Christ calls us higher than where we usually are content to be... holding grudges and harboring bitterness. How did it feel the last time your husband or wife brought up something (whether petty or large) and used it as a weapon for an argument? Hopefully, we are unfamiliar with such a thing. Realistically, most of us have probably experienced this at some point in our lives, if not from our spouses, then perhaps from a friend or relative.

We need to understand God's forgiveness in order to apply it to others, especially in marriage. We are generally the nastiest with our dearest loves. If God forgave us while we were crucifying him on the cross, surely we can show mercy and grace for her not getting the bills paid on time or for him hurting your feelings. When we fall into sin, God will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Our sins are washed away—gone. How can we bring old sludge back up out of the drain again? If we deliberately use a plunger to dredge it up, out it comes. Otherwise, it all but vanishes. May we be an example of Christ's love to our husbands and wives in this area.

Thoughts and Challenges:

Let's treat others the way we want to be treated. Pure and simple. Don't dig up old offenses and drag them out to be hurtful or vindictive. It's ungodly.

Prayers:

May we examine our hearts and let God expose those things that are hindering a forgiving spirit. If there's an area in which you are harboring bitterness at God, start with that. Mend that relationship first, then move on to your marriage. Let's embrace God's grace!

-Linda Chivington

Growth In Jesus

COME, ALL YOU WHO ARE THIRSTY

A STUDY OF ISAIAH 55

Part Two: Water For the Thirsty Food For the Hungry (v. 1)

Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. (Isaiah 55:1)

This is one of the greatest invitation verses in the Bible, along with those such as "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28) and "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink" (John 7:37). God calls the hungry to be fed, the thirsty to be refreshed, the tired to become rested. He does not, on the other hand, promise money to the greedy, fame to the ambitious, or power to the self-important. God's very call is designed to appeal only to those who are able to humble themselves and to admit their deepest needs.

If we are to make any sense of the call that God offers, or if we are to draw any benefit from the blessings he offers, we must first learn this. All else in a believer's relationship with God rests on grace and humility. But many persons feel let down by God, and many refuse even to confess a belief in him, because God refuses to adapt his will or his works to suit their own preconceived agendas or perspectives. Even many Christians make themselves miserable by keeping a tight grasp on important areas of their lives, which they will not entrust to God.

The most basic and important aspect of humility consists of recognizing our need for God. He cannot relieve our thirst or our hunger until we

acknowledge that it is there. And we must also be ready for the type of relief he offers. The Bible's frequent imagery of God offering water and food to the thirsty and hungry is meant to symbolize God meeting the deepest, most basic, and most genuine needs of our souls, not the temporary whims and carnal urges of our flesh. If we have the right expectations of God - that he will give us forgiveness of sins, eternal security, and a purpose to our existence - then we will come away satisfied.

Another important aspect of the humility that God requires is the admission that we cannot give God equal value in exchange for the blessings he offers us. We must instead accept them "without cost". Although this is extraordinarily generous on his part, and although no rational human would quibble over it, this nevertheless gnaws away at the pride of many persons, who thus frantically try to prove that they are righteous enough to earn God's blessings after all. The result is either a deep frustration, or a revolting pride that then reflects a very distorted image of God to others. It cannot lead to a healthy relationship with God, because it denies the grace that God desires to be the foundation of all else.

The truly humble, and only they, can enjoy the full measure of the spiritual blessings that God offers. If we can accept that he knows our true needs, and wishes to fill them even if our own more foolish desires go unfulfilled, and if we can accept his blessings as a gift instead of trying to earn them, then we shall indeed feel like starving, thirsting men and women who have just been invited to a sumptuous feast.

- Mark W. Garner

Family Information

Food Pantry Needs

The Food Pantry is in need of the following: Beef stew, paper towels, kleenex, tea.

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Think About It

Understanding is the reward of faith. Therefore, seek not to understand that thou mayest believe, but believe that thou mayest understand.

The only worthy preachers of the gospel are those who fully realize how unworthy they are.
-Bulletin Inserts

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Sunday Worship Service	10:30 am
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 14 Mothers Day
 17 50's Plus Meeting
 21 Church Banquet At Monaco's Palace
 27 Moving On To Maturity Devotional
 26-29 Tree Haven Encampment

Shut Ins

Please remember and pray for the following members (cards would be appreciated): Helen Williams.

Contributions

Last Week	\$5859	Avg YTD	\$5713
Russia	\$310	Avg YTD	\$261
Youth Min.	\$390	Avg YTD	\$298

N O R T H L A N D M E S S E N G E R

Volume 9, Number 18
April 30, 2000

Protect Your Marriage

Satan's ploy is to rob and steal from you and from your marriage. Sometimes he will even use things that appear to be good to steal from you. In fact, it usually is the pursuit of the good that distracts from the pursuit of the best. Sometimes, the hindrance will not be a direct attack of Satan, but simply your own thoughtlessness.

Beware of the hindrances to developing oneness in marriage:

Having too many individualized activities. Going in the opposite directions too many days and evenings of the week can take its toll. Business associations, community involvement, and church are important, but if your schedule is full with individual activities, your marriage relationship will suffer for lack of time together. Look for things you can do together.

Not scheduling time for togetherness. If you don't schedule time together, you probably won't find much time to spend together. Other things, people, and events will crowd into your schedule. Take time for each other.

Not communicating regularly or meaningfully. Marriage combines two busy schedules, and the concerns of the family to produce a relationship that is challenged by the many directional pulls of an active life. You must continually work at communicating in order to maintain a close bond in the midst of busyness. Communicating takes time and commitment to really hear the other person. Talk to each other.

Not resolving differences that arise. Intimacy is easier to destroy than it is to build. Ignoring or pretending that differences don't happen doesn't resolve them. Give yourself time to grow together in oneness. Deal with your issues.

Communicating in a hurtful way. As yourself, Do my words invite my spouse into my heart, or do they push him/her away? If your words have not been full of grace lately, repent to the Lord and to your spouse. Never attack your spouse: always attack the issue that is at the root of the problem. Speak kindly.

Being dishonest. Deception never helps; it hinders every relationship. Tell the truth in its entirety.

Nagging. Once you have plainly said something to your spouse, and you know it's been heard, drop it with your spouse and take it to the Lord. Encourage one another.

Behaving abusively or violently. Abusive behavior is damaging to the spirit and the soul, as well as to the body. The repercussions of abuse will also wound those around you. Get counseling immediately. Treat each other in love.

Being unfaithful. There is nothing that hurts a marriage more than emotional or literal infidelity. Yielding to the temporary illusion of excitement will never be worth the agony you will reap. Forgiveness, healing, and reconciliation can come, but the process can be scarring not only to yourself, but to many standing nearby.

Glenda Malmin, from *Woman You Are Called & Anointed*

Serving God

Renewing Our Relationships in Marriage

Part 11 Roles

"Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them." Col 3:18-19

"...wives be submissive to your husbands, so that some, though they do not obey the word, may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, when they see your reverent and chaste behavior...husbands, live considerately with your wives, bestowing honor on the woman as the weaker sex, since you are joint heirs of the grace of life, in order that your prayers may not be hindered." 1 Pet 3:1-2, 7

How's this for an unpopular topic? Our modern society is moving rapidly toward a gender-vague, "we're all the same" mentality. Our men are looking and acting more and more like women, and our women are wanting to be more and more like men. It's easy to be confused as to what our God-given roles in marriage are supposed to be. If we take a look in the Book...

God tells us wives that we are to be submissive to our husbands (Eph 5:22-24), subject to them as the church is subject to Christ. Sounds basic, right? Why is it that today's women find this so hard to swallow? Could it be that feminism has brought with it many pitfalls, including the pressure of taking the reins in more areas than was intended by God? Some husbands may just be particularly difficult to respect and submit to, especially if they aren't believers. **Your husband will be more willing to lead if he doesn't face resistance at every turn.** Trust in God's Word and be humble.

Husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the church, loving them as their own bodies (Eph 5:25-30). Christian men are to love their wives, with all which that entails (1 Cor 13). **Your wife will submit more willingly if you are making decisions based on her best interests.** Sacrifice for her; be devoted to her. Our modern Western culture has striven to emasculate men by making them out to be the patsies and the fools in order to create some artificial sense of worldly "equality." Men who assume leadership in their homes are often times viewed as overbearing and domineering. Now, this could happen, if the home is being led without the love spoken of earlier. Jesus would not be harsh or power-hungry with us, but always maintains our best interests, at his own personal sacrifice.

God created us equal, but different. Both roles are crucial in a good marriage and home life. Without the husband, the wife and family are weakened without his affection and spiritual leadership. Without the wife, the husband and family suffer the loss of the chief nurturer, caregiver and helper. When men and women are following God's design, it's a wonderfully smoothly-operating machine! It really works! It's refreshing when we "let" God be all-wise and all-knowing, even if it seems culturally distasteful.

Thoughts and Challenges:

Go to the Word. Let that always be your standard. People write many books and foster many different philosophies. What will yours be? Will the Bible be living and active in your life or just an outdated suggestion manual?

Prayers:

Women, may God soften our hearts and may we be willing to obey his word, even if it's difficult. God blesses those who are obedient! If your husband makes this passage extremely difficult, pray for perseverance and for a change of heart both for you and your spouse. Men, may God encourage you and strengthen you with wisdom to step out and lead your family. They desperately need you to lead them in their walk with God. Who else will? Love them passionately and don't be afraid to step into your God-ordained role, exercising leadership with the love of Jesus.

-Linda Chivington

Growth In Jesus

COME, ALL YOU WHO ARE THIRSTY A STUDY OF ISAIAH 55

Part Three

Why Labor For What Does Not Satisfy? (v. 2)

Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare. (Isaiah 55:2)

Through Isaiah, God calls us to take advantage of the greatest opportunity ever offered to humanity: that of knowing God and his will for their lives. But most humans do not heed this call, and will instead spend most of their lives in a frantic and futile pursuit of illusory and unsatisfying goals, which will please neither them nor God. It is about this sad situation that Isaiah is hoping to warn us in verse 2. Simply put, a life spent doing anything without God will prove to be an empty, hopeless, and frustrating life, while a life spent seeking God will be joyful and purposeful.

No doubt, we could at this point make many accurate observations about the bizarre goals that unbelievers set for themselves, and waste their lives pursuing. It is both sad and maddening to see the absolutely trivial and worthless things that the pagans consider worthy of great devotion and sacrifice. But very few such persons read the book of Isaiah, and the prophet is thus appealing here not to benighted unbelievers, but to wavering children of God. We also constantly need to

remind ourselves to pull our focus off of the trivial, and to concentrate on seeking God.

Isaiah deliberately continues his imagery of eating, to emphasize that we have a need for God that must be filled. When a person is hungry, the only way to meet that need is to eat. In the same way, our souls have a hunger for God that can only be filled by God. It would be irrational for a hungry man to think that he could ease his physical hunger with money or power or anything else but food. And yet, so many persons are too proud to submit their lives for God, and thus look to something other than God to fill needs that only God can meet. When we feel insecure, insignificant, without purpose, lonely, unhappy, or many other unpleasant feelings, this is our soul calling out for God; it is our hunger for God coming through. The only way to fill this hunger for God is to turn to him. All of our many attempts to find other ways of filling these needs are doomed, in the long run, to failure and frustration.

Even as Christians, we must constantly remind ourselves to put God himself ahead of all else in our hearts, even ahead of the blessings he himself gives us. God himself is our greatest reward, and the richest of fare that will fulfill our souls. All we need to do is to acknowledge that he is our deepest need, and is worthy of our utmost eagerness in seeking him.

- Mark W. Garner

Family Information

Food Pantry Needs

The Food Pantry is in need of the following: Tea, saltine crackers, cake mix, kleenex, paper towels.

Banquet

Dates have been confirmed for the Northland Church Banquet which will be on Sunday, May 21st at 5:30 p.m. at Monaco's Palace next door. Brian Arnold will be in the foyer Sunday and Wednesdays after services to collect money.

Directory Correction

John Appiah, 2162 Fitzroy Dr., #C6, Columbus, OH 43224. Phone number - 337-1547.

Potter Children's Home

Once again we have been invited to be a part of **The 2000 Commodities Outreach** for Potter Children's Home. We are asking each member to donate between \$3.00 - \$15.00 for this cause. Please give your donations to Roy Estep by June 18th. Thank you for helping the children and families at Potter Children's Home. Write checks to Northland, and indicate that it is for Potter Children's Home.

Sympathy

We want to express our sympathy to Kris Durr and family at the death of his grandfather, Kenneth Lavey. Please keep the family in your prayers.

Services

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am
 Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am
 Sunday Evening 5:30 pm
 Wednesday Evening 7:00 pm

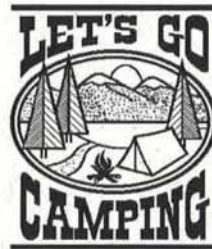
Elders: Wilbur Allen, Frank Chappell, Roy Estep, Gene Prince, Ray Thorne
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Evangelists: Mike Hipes, Tom Barnhardt

Northland Church of Christ 4581 Cleveland Ave. Columbus, OH 43231 (614) 475-0161

Calendar

May

- 14 Mothers Day
- 17 50's Plus Meeting
- 21 Church Banquet At Monaco's Palace
- 27 Moving On To Maturity Devotional
- 26-29 Tree Haven Encampment



Shut Ins

Please remember and pray for the following members (cards would be appreciated):
 Helen Williams.

Contributions

Last Week	\$6380	Avg YTD	\$5729
Russia	\$285	Avg YTD	\$276
Youth Min.	\$180	Avg YTD	\$329

N O R T H L A N D Messenger

Volume 9, Number 20

May 14, 2000

Honoring Mother

HONORING MOTHER IN ALL STAGES OF LIFE

Honoring our parents is the first obligation toward humans given in the Ten Commandments. How we best honor our mother may be determined by her stage in life. Life changes and how we best honor her changes.

We need to honor her in our youth by obeying and respecting her. "Obey your parents" (Eph. 6:1). One can be obedient without being respectful: that does not show honor.

We need to honor her as we enter adulthood. "Do not forsake your mother's teaching" (Prov. 1:8). When we leave home, we need to take our mother's teaching with us. That honors her. Honoring her at this stage of life might involve beginning to forgive some of her flaws. It might involve our apologizing for some of the pain we gave her as we grew up.

We need to honor her as she becomes a grandmother and great-grandmother. "Do not despise you mother when she is old" (Prov. 23:22). We have our own families, but we are not to forget to honor our mothers. And that honor is defined as providing what we can to meet her needs. Honor at this point might come to mean helping her adjust to new living arrangements, treating her with dignity, accepting responsibility for her, patience and understanding. It may mean communicating to her, "I will honor you by doing what is best for you" even if these decisions are difficult ones - for her or us.

We need to honor her even if she has already died by being what she taught us to be, like being honest or being obedient to God.

Gary Grady
 (Bulletin Digest)

*Listen, my son, to your father's instruction
 and do not forsake your mother's teaching.
 Proverbs 1:8*

Serving God

IN THE HEAD OR IN THE HEART?

People have many interesting ways of denigrating arguments for the existence of God. For some, any argument that depends on human knowledge or understanding is invalid because it is so easy for humans to be wrong. There is no doubt that humans are prone to error, but everything we do in life has some kind of human connection or dependency. For others, the subject of the spiritual is so intangible that any discussion attempt is doomed to failure before it begins. One mistaken concept frequently heard from people who already believe in God is that "you have to have God in your heart, not in your head." The idea is that religious belief has to be something you feel and which involves you emotionally – not just something you can scientifically or philosophically explain. People are quick to point out that there are biblical statements like "The people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me" (Isaiah 29:13). Others will quote passages like Romans 10:17 which says "Faith comes from hearing and hearing by the word of God."

Some people are so turned off by science and/or by the negative things science has brought into our lives that they want no part of any amalgamation of science and faith.

It is a serious error to assign the development of faith to feelings or emotions or even to blind acceptance of biblical passages. Emotions can be controlled by other human beings. They are influenced by changes in our age, our diet, and a variety of environmental factors. People like Jim Jones, David Koresh, and Marshall Applewhite have been able to control the emotions and feelings of people in extreme and destructive ways. People whose entire religious experience is emotional in nature tend to have a roller coaster type of faith – extreme highs followed by crushing lows.

It is important to know why we believe what we believe. An unreasoned faith is acceptance – not real faith. Many of us have accepted what our parents told us. We have followed it, perhaps as a cheap means of keeping the peace at home – but the faith is not ours. The result is that when our faith is tested in any way, it crumbles. When people who claim to be Christians make monstrous errors, a lack of belief is at least partially at the root of their collapse. Life brings a lot of disappointment, failure, and disillusionment. If we are not solid in our faith it is easy to be shaken so badly that we compromise what we believe or reject God all together.

The Bible contains strong support for rational building of faith through evidence. A study of Thomas in John 11 compared to John 20 will show a man moving from total belief and a willingness to die for his faith, to rejection. The way Jesus deals with the faith problem of Thomas is to provide him with evidence "reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe" (John 20:27).

Romans 1:19 tells us we can know there is a God through the things He has made. In the ministry of Paul we see him offering apologetic evidences in his dealings with the skeptics of his day – in all cases suited to the faith needs of the audience that he was addressing.

It is not the purpose of his discussion to suggest that there is to be no emotion in our religious expression or belief. Getting excited about our faith or any part of it is also expressed in Scripture. Joy, feeling love, peace, security, and satisfaction are all feelings we may have in our religious lives. These are not a basis for belief, but they may help our faith just as pain, sorrow, death, and loss may challenge it. We are not to be what we are religiously in a cold mechanical sense, but neither are we to be puppets guided by the beliefs of others or our feelings. Apologetics is an area that all of us need to continue to examine as we mature our faith and grow in our application of faith to our choices in life.

John Clayton, from "Does God Exist?"

Growth In Jesus

COME, ALL YOU WHO ARE THIRSTY A STUDY OF ISAIAH 55

Part Five: Summoning the Nations (v. 5)

Surely you will summon nations you know not, and nations that do not know you will hasten to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has endowed you with splendor." (Isaiah 55:5)

Even before our physical universe existed, God had made his plans not only for the creation but also for its redemption. In the Scriptures, we see how God revealed his brilliant and loving plan of salvation over the course of many years, always making clear (to those with discernment) where it was leading. Today's Christians are blessed to be able to see all that God has done, and to share in the full measure of spiritual blessings found in Jesus Christ. Yet, just as the Jews in Isaiah's day could see only themselves and their own needs and concerns, so today too many Christians have a narrow and limited perspective on what God is doing. Isaiah called God's people to open their eyes, and to see the wider scale on which God was operating. His plans were not only for the tiny nation of Israel, but for the whole world - including many nations about which the Jews knew nothing. We also must learn to open our eyes and try to understand that God has much greater goals in mind for us than simply taking care of our day-to-day requests and worries.

To the Jewish nation in his lifetime, Isaiah presented a spur to look beyond their own borders. They had long past adopted the attitude that nothing of importance happened

in other countries, because, after all, they were the people God had chosen. In forgetting that God's plans for them were long-term plans that looked to the future, they also forgot that God's care and compassion extends to all of humanity, not just one lucky nation or group. God had always purposed the nation of Israel to be his instrument to bring salvation and other blessings to the rest of the world. Unfortunately, they could only see their relationship with God in narrow, self-centered terms, and evaluated their relationship with God primarily in terms of two things: their own outward religious performance, and the material blessings they received from God. In so doing, they deprived themselves of the greatest of the blessings that God wanted them to experience. In particular, such a self-centered view of one's relationship with God leads quickly to a lack of fulfillment and appreciation.

We Christians must also constantly remind ourselves that there are many men and women who do not know God. We do not have to travel to a distant land to find them - most of the persons we are around in the course of our daily lives have no real knowledge of God or his Word. Further, even many Christians have only a dim awareness of what God is really doing in their lives and others' lives. We have many opportunities to share God with those who need him, in many different ways. By no means ought we to get caught up in guilt, or in a dreary sense of duty, in this regard. Rather, we ought simply to realize that the opportunity to reflect God's glory to those around us - whether by word, by example, by service, or compassion - is meant by God to be a fulfilling and special part of our relationship with Him.

- Mark W. Garner

Family Information

Food Pantry Needs

The Food Pantry is in need of the following: Tea bags, kleenex, paper towels, laundry detergent, dry beans.

Potter Children's Home

Once again we have been invited to be a part of **The 2000 Commodities Outreach** for Potter Children's Home. We are asking each member to donate between \$3.00 - \$15.00 for this cause. Please give your donations to Roy Estep by June 18th. Thank you for helping the children and families at Potter Children's Home. Write checks to Northland, and indicate that it is for Potter Children's Home.

Graduation

Bobby Graham, Sr. graduated Saturday May 13th from Sunset School of Preaching. We want to celebrate with him and welcome their family to Northland

Teens

Any one interested in getting a season pass to Wyandotte Lake need to give their money to Pam Estep **Today**. The cost is \$37.50.

Congratulations

Mike and Sarah Crothers are the parents of a baby girl born May 13.

Darian and Carole (Hopkins) Daily are the parents of a baby girl. Peyton Elizabeth was born May 14th and weighed 6 lb. 9 oz.

Services

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am
 Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am
 Sunday Evening 5:30 pm
 Wednesday Evening 7:00 pm

Elders: Wilbur Allen, Frank Chappell, Roy Estep, Gene Prince, Ray Thorne
Deacons: Brian Arnold, Tom Barnhardt, Joe Barozzini, John Bradley, Steve Carver, Lynn Champney, Darrell Estep, Jack Evans, Don Gillespie, Lou Lawrence, Sam Leslie, Jack Mauersberg, Beryl McMasters, Mark Morris, Charlie Yates
Evangelists: Mike Hipes, Tom Barnhardt

Calendar

May

- 21 Church Banquet At Monaco's Palace 5:30 p.m.
 27 Moving On To Maturity Devotional
 26-29 Tree Haven Encampment

June

- 7 50's Plus Meeting
 10 Moving On To Maturity Devotional
 11-17 Northland's Camp Week
 18 Fathers Day
 18 50's Plus "Eat Out Sunday"
 20 Summer Youth Series At Lancaster
 21 50's Plus Meeting
 24 Moving On To Maturity Devotional
 27 Summer Youth Series At Pataskala
 29 Middle School Devotional At Northland 10:00-11:00
 30 Youth Group Devotional And Party At Bobby And Judy Grahams Home

Shut Ins

Please remember and pray for the following members (cards would be appreciated):
 Helen Williams.

Contributions

Last Week		Avg YTD	
Russia	\$265	Avg YTD	\$275
Youth Min.	\$272	Avg YTD	\$326

Northland Church of Christ 4581 Cleveland Ave. Columbus, OH 43231 (614) 475-0161

NORTHLAND Messenger

May 21, 2000 Volume 9, Number 21

Living Below Your Means

The way we feel about and deal with "money" must be an important issue in our spiritual lives. Otherwise, why would Scripture say so much about it? Against the tendency of preachers to address the subject only when the church is behind budget or launching a building project, there probably needs to be more teaching on such practical issues as materialism, generosity, and ethical behavior with money.

One of the most practical things most of us would do well to understand is this: **"It is perfectly acceptable to live below your means."** In fact, most people know it isn't smart to live above their means. That is the surest path to debt and fiscal irresponsibility.

The typical American hasn't always been so overspent and stressed out by conspicuous consumption. There was likely a time in your adult life when you could have put everything you owned into a car and driven into the sunset. Now you'd need a good-sized truck - and probably professional movers. You spend more now on insuring your "stuff" each year than you once thought you would need in order to live.

I've read that Texans have an expression to describe the person with a splashy lifestyle but no financial stability behind it: Big hat, no cattle. An aphorism covering the spiritual dimensions of the same phenomenon could be: Full hands, empty heart.

Stanley and Danko's "The Millionaire Next Door" claims that three out of four millionaires drive cars more than a year old. Half have never spent more than \$29,000 for an automobile or owned a wristwatch that cost more than \$235. By contrast, it is not unusual for someone with a leased \$75,000 Mercedes or who takes lavish vacations to have practically no substantive wealth or investments. You can make bold-if-false statements about yourself with today's easy credit.

Parents, company executives, and church leaders would have far greater credibility at all levels if they adopted and modeled four sound financial habits that reflect biblical teaching: (1) Enjoy being generous, (2) Avoid debt, (3) Get rid of things you aren't using, and (4) Learn the contentment of letting what you have be enough. People who live in times and situations of prosperity should not feel guilty over their good fortune. Instead, we should give thanks to God. Then we need to take the harder next step of honoring him with responsible stewardship of his good gifts.

Given the alternative, it is wiser and more spiritual to live **"below"** your means.

Rubel Shelly & the Woodmont Hills Church

Serving God

WORSHIP FROM THE HEART

A little boy asked his father what was the highest number he had ever counted. Replying that he didn't know, the father asked his son his highest number. It was 973.

"Why did you stop there?" wondered the father.

"Because church was over."

I suspect that you have probably sat through worship services where your mind was focused on something just as trivial rather than on God. It's easy to let the mind wander. "I can't wait to see the ball game this afternoon." "I wonder what we're having for lunch." "I've never noticed before that the carpet down there is starting to unravel a bit." Is it any wonder that we so often leave the worship assembly with the feeling that it wasn't very meaningful?

Worship should be a time when we are confronted with the majesty and glory of God. As we reflect on God's power, we realize how much we need Him in our times of weakness. As we reflect on God's wisdom, we realize how much we need Him in our times of indecision. As we reflect on God's holiness, we are made aware of our own sinfulness and the need

for forgiveness. As we reflect on God's love, we realize the effort God has gone to to make that forgiveness available.

It's not a ritual we go through every week. It is an opportunity to express our praise to the One who means more to us than all the earth. As we truly worship and praise God from the heart, we become more aware of how much we want to live close to Him. We leave with the challenge to "be holy as He is holy."

"For the LORD is great and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples are idols, But the LORD made the heavens. Honor and majesty are before Him; Strength and beauty are in His Sanctuary. Give to the LORD, O families of the peoples, Give to the LORD glory and strength. Give to the LORD the glory due His name; Bring an offering, and come into His courts. Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness! Tremble before Him, all the earth." (Psalm 96:4-9)

Have a great day!

Alan Smith
Boone Church of Christ, Boone, NC

"Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe"
Hebrews 12:28

Growth In Jesus

COME, ALL YOU WHO ARE THIRSTY A STUDY OF ISAIAH 55

Part Six Call on Him While He is Near (v. 6-7)

Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near.

Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. (Isaiah 55:6-7)

So far, Isaiah has put forth several points about our lives that make a compelling case for us to turn over our lives, minds, and hearts to God. He has pointed out the futility of living for ourselves or for earthly profit of any kind, he has indicated the assured satisfaction and peace that come from God when we follow him, and he has assured us that God and his plans are eternally reliable. With all those things in mind, he appeals now for every person to make the right and obvious decision to seek God. But besides the logical case for seeking God, Isaiah also strikes a note of urgency. We are called to seek God "while he may be found", and "while he is near". Isaiah is urging us to not neglect the opportunity to seek God, because it may not always be there.

By no means is the prophet suggesting that God will someday lose interest in human salvation, or that he would ever withdraw his offer of salvation to certain individuals who have proven particularly resistant to his call. Rather, these verses refers to a sobering reality about the human heart. There are times in any

person's life when God's call is made clear, when an unbeliever for the first time is moved to realize that there really is a living God, or when God reveals to a believer what he or she must do, and these opportunities must not be wasted. The indefinable frustration with life that so many unbelievers have, and also the spiritual malaise and restlessness that many Christians experience, are both a result of passing up the chance to hear God's call when it comes.

God is perfect, constant, always ready for us to come to him. His eternal wisdom prevents him from acting capriciously, from offering us salvation only to withdraw it petulantly when we decline the first time. There would be no Christians at all if God were not so extraordinarily patient, compassionate, and long-suffering! But we humans are inconstant and insecure. We are ruled by our emotions, and are incapable of overcoming our own weaknesses. We must therefore not waste those few special moments in our lives when we suddenly see a spiritual truth more clearly than ever before.

The next time you come to realize a spiritual need in your life, whatever that need may be, do not allow the banalities of everyday life to deaden your conviction. Do not let the moment pass without taking at least an initial step along the path God has shown you. As Paul said, "now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2).

- Mark W. Garner

Family Information

Food Pantry Needs

The Food Pantry is in need of the following: saltine crackers, kleenex, paper towels, canned soup, toothpaste.

Potter Children's Home

Once again we have been invited to be a part of **The 2000 Commodities Outreach** for Potter Children's Home. We are asking each member to donate between \$3.00 - \$15.00 for this cause. Please give your donations to Roy Estep by June 18th. Thank you for helping the children and families at Potter Children's Home. Write checks to Northland, and indicate that it is for Potter Children's Home.

Graduation Open House

You are invited to an open house to celebrate the High School Graduation of Aaron Barnhardt and Kristen Barozzini on June 4th from 2-5 p.m. in the annex. Come share in our joy! The Barozzini's & Barnhardt's

Welcome The Graham's

The Graham's will be arriving on either Tuesday or Wednesday. We would like to welcome them by helping to fill their empty pantry. Please bring canned goods on Sunday and leave them in Mike's office. He will see that they are taken to the Graham's house before they arrive.

New Address

Kris Durr's new address is: 5572 A Mibernia Dr. Columbus, 43232, 614-864-2014.

Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 am
Sunday Worship Service	10:30 am
Sunday Evening	5:30 pm
Wednesday Evening	7:00 pm

Elders: Wilbur Allen, Frank Chappell, Roy Estep, Gene Prince, Ray Thorne
Deacons: Brian Arnold, Tom Barnhardt, Joe Barozzini, John Bradley, Steve Carver, Lynn Champney, Darrell Estep, Jack Evans, Don Gillespie, Lou Lawrence, Sam Leslie, Jack Mauersberg, Beryl McMasters, Mark Morris, Charlie Yates
Evangelists: Mike Hipes, Tom Barnhardt

Calendar

June

4	Bring Your Neighbor Day
7	50's Plus Meeting
10	Moving On To Maturity Devotional
11-17	Northland's Camp Week
18	Fathers Day
18	50's Plus "Eat Out Sunday"
20	Summer Youth Series At Lancaster
21	50's Plus Meeting
24	Moving On To Maturity Devotional
27	Summer Youth Series At Pataskala
29	Middle School Devotional At Northland 10:00-11:00
30	Youth Group Devotional And Party At Bobby And Judy Grahams Home

Bring Your Neighbor Day

Our new Bible class quarter begins next Sunday June 4. This is a great opportunity to invite your friends and neighbors to study and worship with us. Instead of a pot luck in the Annex (as was announced Wednesday night) we encourage you to invite your guests to your home or to their favorite restaurant for Sunday dinner. We will follow our normal Sunday morning schedule on the 4th.

Contributions

	Last Week	\$6099	Avg YTD	\$5739
Russia	\$225	Avg YTD	\$260	
Youth Min.	\$323	Avg YTD	\$323	

Northland Church of Christ 4581 Cleveland Ave. Columbus, OH 43231 (614) 475-0161

Peaceful Coexistence

The story is told of a Russian named Ivanovich who visited the Moscow zoo for the first time. To his amazement, he found a little lamb sharing the cage with a big fierce bear.

Ivanovich expressed surprise to his guide. The guide smiled and said, "That is peaceful coexistence."

When Ivanovich shook his head in a doubtful way, the guide explained, "Of course, we have to put in a fresh lamb every morning."

As much as we should strive for peace, there are some things which simply cannot coexist peacefully – truth and error, righteousness and ungodliness, morality and immorality.

If we try to combine two such things in our lives, they will only coexist "peacefully" only if one gobbles up the other. That's why James was so forceful in his warning:

"You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God." (James 4:4, NASB)

Have a great day and a great weekend!
 Alan Smith
 Boone, NC

"For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession."

Deuteronomy 7:6

NORTHLAND
 Messenger

May 28, 2000 Volume 9, Number 22

Serving God

THE CHALLENGE OF MODERN MOTHERHOOD

Somebody once observed that the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world. It's no less true today, but motherhood has changed. Today's mother is likely to be overworked, stressed, and fatigued. She may fight the blues, struggle with anger, or feel guilty. She may suffer from an identity crisis and energy crisis at the same time. Yet motherhood is still one of the most important and powerful positions in our culture.

Psalm 127:3 says, "Behold, children are a gift of the Lord; the fruit of the womb is a reward." To be an involved and loving parent is both tough and blessed. Moms are typically around the kids more than dads are, even though dads must spend time with their kids and be equally involved and caring.

Perhaps the dilemma of our time is that it is possible to give birth to a child and not really mother the child. For a child, love is often understood in the amount and quality of time we give them as parents.

It seems kids grow up so fast. When they are babies, we want them to get out of diapers, walk, talk, etc. Then when they graduate from high school and go off to college, we weep and wonder how the years could have passed so quickly. The empty nest period of life is not a bad time, but it is a stark reminder of James' description of life being just a vapor. One mother in the Midwest had a cross-

stitched message framed over the mantle in the den: "Cleaning and scrubbing can wait 'til tomorrow for babies grow up, we've learned to our sorrow. So quiet down cobwebs. Dust, go to sleep. I'm rocking my baby and babies don't keep."

Patricia Rushford tells of a great experience she had with her kids. A baby squirrel fell from its tree and the kids picked it up and brought it into the house. Afraid that the mother squirrel would abandon it after human scent was on it, she decided she would try to help the kids raise the squirrel. They names it Earl. At first they fed him with an eyedropper. Then they helped him gather acorns for the winter. He hid them in the yard and in the house! Earl was friendly to humans. He would run up the legs of people – even visitors! Earl eventually found a girl friend, bit Patricia's hand, and left home. They never saw Earl again, but what a special time they had together caring for him.

Godly mothers can train their children in biblical truths (Prov. 22:6) and provide an atmosphere where laughter is welcomed. Proverbs 17:22 says, "A joyful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit dries up the bones." It is a blessed kid who has a godly mother. Those kids who were blessed by a godly mother are more likely to pass the blessing onto their kids. Hopefully, they will also honor the woman whom God used to touch their lives.

James Rudy Gray

Growth In Jesus

COME, ALL YOU WHO ARE THIRSTY A STUDY OF ISAIAH 55

Part Seven God's Thoughts & Our Thoughts (v. 8-9)

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord.

"As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. (Isaiah 55:8-9)

In the first part of this chapter, Isaiah has reminded us of the most compelling reasons to accept God's salvation and lordship. He has emphasized that the spiritual blessings God offers are of greater and more lasting worth than are the negligible benefits of living according to the flesh. He has urged us to see that a relationship with God gives us a purpose and an identity that will last forever. With all this in mind, he urges us to respond to God's call while we have the chance. In verses 8-9, he now comes to the climax of his plea. Not only God's factual wisdom, but his entire perspective and value system, are much different and much grander than those of any human. When we decide whether to follow God whole-heartedly, or instead to cling to our own self-willed lifestyle (or instead, to try to straddle the fence and attempt vainly to have things both ways), Isaiah wants us to see that we really do not have the wisdom or the insight that is needed to make good decisions on our own. Only God knows what is really good for us.

Please note that the actual meaning of this verse is far different from the ways that it is sometimes used out of context. In telling us that God's thoughts and ways are not our own, and are on a

much higher level than ours, Isaiah is by no means indicating that we ought to live a life of resigned ignorance, never really knowing what is going on, but having a vague belief that God does. Such an interpretation not only misuses these verses, it reveals a fundamentally faulty view of God. God wants to convict us of how much greater his will and wisdom are than ours, not to intimidate us into confused submission, but to inspire us and motivate us to want to learn more about him and about his plans for us and for the world. This is a positive call, not a negative one.

It is deeply unfortunate when humans resign themselves to not understanding what their lives are all about, to never really grasping what God is doing. Sometimes this is the result of an honest misunderstanding of verses such as Isaiah 55:8-9, and sometimes individuals simply use verses like these as a rationalization for not searching more deeply for God. But you and I do not need to fall into either trap. We can heed Isaiah's call, and reap the spiritual benefits.

Understanding God and his will is the richest experience available for weak and fault-filled fleshly beings like you and me. When we prayerfully seek God's will, and diligently search God's Word, we find answers to our deepest needs and concerns, even to questions we didn't know how to ask. We find that this physical universe, so chaotic and frightening at times, contains a glorious and infallible pattern given it by the living God. We find that our own humble bodies, minds, and hearts can be part of something far greater than ourselves, the redemption of the world through the blood of Christ. Such satisfying rewards are well worth the search involved.

- Mark W. Garner

Family Information

Food Pantry Needs

The Food Pantry is in need of the following: kleenex, paper towels, paper grocery bags, toothpaste, bar soap, cake mix.

Graduation Open House

You are invited to an open house to celebrate the High School Graduation of Aaron Barnhardt and Kristen Barozzini today from 2-5 p.m. in the annex. Come share in our joy!

New Bible Classes

The Summer Bible class quarter will begin next week. The three Sunday morning classes currently in progress will continue through the summer. The Weigh Down Workshop will continue on Wednesday nights although the current 12-week session is now closed to new members. Mike's class will continue with a new subject: *The Eldership - They Smell Like Sheep and Other Qualifications.*

Baby shower

There will be a baby shower for Sara Gillespie at the home of Karen Chavis on Sunday June 25th at 2 p.m. For directions see Ashli, Karen Chavis or Vicki Thomas. Please RSVP by Wednesday June 21.

Teen Info

The teens, including 6th grade and up, will once again meet at the park on Sunday evenings beginning June 18th. Our time at Sharon Woods Park will include small group studies, fellowship, games and food. We encourage all teens to be there and friends too. More details later.

Services

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am
 Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am
 Sunday Evening 5:30 pm
 Wednesday Evening 7:00 pm

Elders: Wilbur Allen, Frank Chappell, Roy Estep, Gene Prince, Ray Thorne
Deacons: Brian Arnold, Tom Barnhardt, Joe Barozzini, John Bradley, Steve Carver, Lynn Champney, Darrell Estep, Jack Evans, Don Gillespie, Lou Lawrence, Sam Leslie, Jack Mauersberg, Beryl McMasters, Mark Morris, Charlie Yates
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 29 Middle School Devotional At Northland 10:00-11:00
 30 Youth Group Devotional And Party At Bobby And Judy Grahams Home

Graduates

If you are receiving a diploma this spring or if you've received one in the last 11 months, please give Vicki Thomas your name, the type of degree, and the name of your school. We're interested in high school and above, including associates, technical, and college degrees.

Contributions

Last Week	\$4942	Avg YTD	\$5705
Russia	\$245	Avg YTD	\$272
Youth Min.	\$635	Avg YTD	\$337

Northland Church of Christ 4581 Cleveland Ave. Columbus, OH 43231 (614) 475-0161

Stand Still

"Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord" (Ex. 14:13).

These words contain God's command to the believer when he is reduced to great straits and brought into extraordinary difficulties. He cannot retreat; he cannot go forward; he is shut upon the right and on the left.

What Is He Now to Do?

The Master's word to him is "stand still." It will be well for him if, at such times, he listens only to his Master's word, for other and evil advisers come with their suggestions.

Despair whispers, "Lie down and die; give it all up." But god would have us put on a cheerful courage, and even in our worst times, rejoice in His love and faithfulness.

Cowardice says, "Retreat; go back to the worldling's way of action; you cannot play the Christian's part; it is too difficult. Relinquish your principles."

But, however much Stan may urge this course upon you, you cannot follow it, if you are a child of God. His divine fiat has bid you go from strength to strength, and so you shall, and neither death nor hell shall turn you from your course. What if for a while you are called to stand still; yet this is but to renew your strength for some greater advance in due time.

Precipitancy cries, "Do something; stir yourself, to stand still and wait is sheer idleness." We must be doing something at once - we must do it, so we think, instead of looking to he Lord, who will not only do something, but will do everything.

Presumption boasts, "If the sea be before you, march into it, and expect a miracle." But faith listens neither to Presumption, nor to Despair, nor to Cowardice, nor to Precipitancy, but it hears God say, *"Stand still,"* and immovable as a rock it stands.

"Stand still" - keep the posture of an upright believer, ready for action, expecting further orders, cheerfully and patiently awaiting for the directing voice; and it will not be long before God shall say to you, as distinctly as Moses said it to the people of Israel, "Go forward."

Charles Haddon Spurgeon
 (1834-1892)

NORTHLAND
 Messenger
 Volume 9, Number 23
 June 4, 2000

Serving God

WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO HELL?

The God our forefathers preached – the God of the Bible – is hard to recognize in our modern culture. Oh, He's still there, in the popular mindset, but He's changed... more like Santa Claus... more like the god everyone seems to want Him to be.

The change in popular thinking is reflected in how people view heaven and hell. Heave has become the place where everybody goes – sooner or later, depending on whether one is influenced by *Touched by an Angel* or by Catholicism's purgatory. So the concept of heaven is ever-expanding.

Hell, meanwhile, is shrinking... almost gone entirely, according to some people's ideas. And not just on television or in the marketplace. We understand from *Dateline: Heaven* that "the newest Presbyterian (USA) catechism hardly mentions the subject at all. The diminution of hell in this version was a 'theological choice by the committee that good news is more faithful to the gospel than bad news.'"

Isn't that a seductive proposition? "Good news is more faithful to the gospel (which means "good news") than bad news." It is more faithful, all right, but not to the gospel. It is more faithful to the image of a god our culture is building.

Listen to Sukie Miller, who conducted a study on "after-death," published in *Omni*: "We feel it is our birthright to be happy. We are guaranteed it in the Declaration of Independence. We feel entitled to it, and we'll sue somebody if we don't get it." "Yes," comments *Dateline: Heaven*, "and

we also will redesign hell with that cheerful blueprint in mind."

Part of the early fall-out is an increasing absence of the fear of death. Witness the successes of "Dr. Death," Jack Kevorkian. Witness the enactment of an assisted-suicide law in Oregon, with copy-cats active in most states. And if there is nothing to fear from death; if everyone goes to heaven; or possibly simply passes into non-existence; WHY NOT? Why not progress from assisted suicide to getting rid of our excess human baggage? Why should anyone have to pass through "this vale of tears"?

Why? Because hell has not become bloated and easy. Hell is freighted with anguish and pain today as it was in the days of Jonathan Edwards and his famous sermon, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God." That sermon moved his auditors mightily, because they knew that God was not to be trifled with. They knew – though they often buried the knowledge – that God is Judge as well as a Father to the faithful.

Today, even preachers who know better prefer to keep hell low-key. It's not good for attendance. It's not upbeat and cheerful.

Strange, isn't it, that our Savior had a lot more to say about hell than He did about heaven? Isn't it odd that He wept over Jerusalem and His people? And why would He let them crucify Him, if it didn't matter much anyway?

I don't know about you, but I sure don't want it on my conscience that I helped delude people into thinking there is a broad way to heaven, when I know full well that the broad way goes the other way. Think about it.

Ted Kyle, in "Pulpit Helps"

Growth In Jesus

COME, ALL YOU WHO ARE THIRSTY: A STUDY OF ISAIAH 55

Part Eight: The Word Gives Life (v. 10-11)

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,

so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. (Isaiah 55:10-11)

In urging us to respond to God's call, Isaiah has appealed to us to accept how much greater God's wisdom and perspectives are than our own. Now, he wants to drive home the rewards and blessings that accompany an acceptance of the call that God has made through the prophet, the call to turn over our lives, minds, hearts, and bodies to God so that he can do with them as he wills. In verses 10-11, he uses some memorable images to emphasize God's nature as the true giver of life and growth. This is a basic and important part of our relationship with him.

Isaiah uses the image of water falling to the earth as rain or snow. Without the rain and snow, there would be no rivers, no lakes, and no water to nourish living plants and animals. Without any human decision or planning, and usually without humans even noticing, we are provided with this most basic and vital need in our lives. All of life depends on this quiet but ubiquitous process. The water that falls as rain

today will, many days in the future, nourish plants and animals, provide us with food, and will bring refreshment, life and growth. We do not need to plan for it or to initiate the process in any way. In the same way, God's Word, by its very nature, brings life and growth to the world. At times, its fruitful work is barely noticed by humans, caught up in their fleshly fixations. But whether noticed or not, it is truly living and active, as Hebrews 4:12 assures us.

God promises us that his Word will achieve "the purpose for which I sent it". It is the misunderstanding of this purpose that causes humans, even many believers, to fail to see the power of the Word. Human authorities use their power, influence, and position to try to get their way all of the time, to try to force others to bend to their will, whether other persons like it or not. And we often assume that God has this same selfish motivation and agenda. But God suffers neither from insecurity nor impatience, and thus he is completely different from human rulers and authorities. His Word is given to us as a source of life. It is sent to us not as a domineering act of a self-willed tyrant, but as a gracious act of a loving Creator and Father, to give us life and peace.

The Word of God is the only true source of peace, life, joy, and love, and it is only by following it that we can have such things in a genuine and lasting measure. God knows this, and he thus sends his Word to us as a blessing of life in a world otherwise ruled by sin, death, and Satan. Amidst all of the other valuable insights that we find in God's Word, we should always remember to celebrate it as a message of life.

- Mark W. Garner

Family Information

Food Pantry Needs

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Baby shower

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Teen Info

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Evangelists: Mike Hipes, Tom Barnhardt

Calendar

June

11-17 Northland's Camp Week
 18 Fathers Day
 18 50's Plus "Eat Out Sunday"
 20 Summer Youth Series At Lancaster
 21 50's Plus Meeting
 24 Moving On To Maturity Devotional
 27 Summer Youth Series At Pataskala
 29 Middle School Devotional At Northland 10:00-11:00
 30 Youth Group Devotional And Party At Bobby And Judy Grahams Home

Graduates

If you are receiving a diploma this spring or if you've received one in the last 11 months, please give Vicki Thomas your name, the type of degree, and the name of your school. We're interested in high school and above, including associates, technical, and college degrees.

Contributions

Last Week	\$6687	Avg YTD	\$5746
Russia	\$250	Avg YTD	\$351
Youth Min.	\$351	Avg YTD	\$337

Northland Church of Christ 4581 Cleveland Ave. Columbus, OH 43231 (614) 475-0161

We Can't Grow Up ...

WE CAN'T GROW UP WHILE WE ARE TALKING DOWN!

Man has outcast the drunkard, strung an emblazoned red "A" around the neck of the adulteress, hung the witch, and cut off the hands of the thief.

But the grumbler has been acquitted!

Whoever heard of trying the grumbler to a stake and pulling out his tongue by the roots?

But in the list of warnings to the Corinthians, Paul has "grumbling" with these unrighteous sisters: lust, idolatry, fornication, and trying the patience of God.

If "birds of a feather flock together," this covey shows grumbling for the spiritually filthy sin that it is.

And you know why? The grumbler spreads unhappiness and discouragement everywhere he opens his mumbling mouth. He cast a black vapor of noxious fumes everywhere he gives vent to his pessimism. He pours polluted water on the plants of creativity we are trying to nourish. He verbally kicks and stamps into the ground the courage and hope we are trying to develop.

ADULTS: Let's build up and encourage our young people and put an example of uplifting, optimistic conversation before them. **YOUNG PEOPLE:** Bad mouthing your parents or low rating the church is a sin... one that you can't afford and a discouragement that you surely don't want. (Maybe you haven't thought of it).

There have been times when our conversation has "talked down" the church, has disheartened the faith of others, has thrown cold water in the face of Christ. Let's be careful!

Let's talk the church up! Encourage the brethren. "UP WITH CHEERS, BE CAREFUL WITH THE JEERS." Morale is everybody's business!

Joe Goodspeed
 Via The Clarkdale Bulletin

NORTHLAND
 Messenger
 Volume 9, Number 24
 June 11, 2000

Serving God

DISCIPLINE YOUR CHILDREN BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE

Most parents think about discipline only after the negative behavior starts in their children. Then it is too late. If you expect to change behaviors, you need to work on them well in advance of the crisis state. Discipline is merely a tool to help children make wise choices. It has a forward purpose in training them to be the best they can be.

How to discipline your children:

- Make sure your children are listening when you speak. Make eye contact and minimize distractions. Have them repeat your command to make sure they have fully understood.
- Speak clearly and firmly. Let your child know that you are serious. Don't pose your commands as questions or favors.
- Don't speak in a threatening or militant tone. While you are trying to be firm, don't become a drill sergeant. Remember, you are talking with your children.
- Cut down on unnecessary commands. Make sure that when you ask of your child is truly necessary. This will help keep your child from feeling overwhelmed and makes it easier to measure compliance.
- Be as matter-of-fact as possible. Keep your cool and give negative consequences in a simple, calm, and factual manner. This helps reduce emotional tension and keeps the interchanges short and to the point.
- Use "choosing" language. "Tommy, you can choose to listen, or you can choose a Time Out." If Tommy doesn't listen, you say, "Okay, Tommy, you chose not to listen so you just

chose a Time-Out." If you make this a regular habit, you will be teaching your child that he/she is responsible for his/her behavior. You will be helping him/her to learn that he/she is constantly making decisions and that wise decisions are always within his/her grasp.

- Make sure the reason for discipline is clear. Make every discipline situation a learning situation. Help your child see the connection between inappropriate behavior and the resulting consequence. Time-Out is a consequence of Tommy's behavior, not your anger.
- Teach your child how to avoid the consequences. You are trying to teach and encourage your child to make the right decisions. Good decisions do not have negative consequences.
- Encourage better choices in the future. Remind your child that the same negative consequence does not have to happen again. Tomorrow is a new day when wise decisions can be made.
- Practice positive behavior. You need to make sure that your child knows how to do the proper behavior that can replace the inappropriate behavior. Talk about what behaviors would be more appropriate the next time the situation arises.
- Be consistent. Misbehavior must be addressed consistently if you want your children to learn the rules. You need to teach them that misbehavior virtually never pays off and that negative behaviors are consistently followed by an appropriate negative consequence.

From *The Parent Lifesaver* by Dr. Todd Cartmell

Growth In Jesus

COME, ALL YOU WHO ARE THIRSTY A STUDY OF ISAIAH 55

Part Nine: Giving Life to the World (v. 12-13)

You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.

Instead of the thornbush will grow the pine tree, and instead of briars the myrtle will grow. This will be for the Lord's renown, for an everlasting sign, which will not be destroyed." (Isaiah 55:12-13)

Isaiah has given us (in verses 10-11) an image of God's Word as a source of life. He has compared it to the rain that comes to earth in order to bring nourishment, growth, and life to all living things. The prophet wants us to appreciate and to celebrate God's nature as the giver of life. Now, he goes a step further: we ourselves can take on the role of life-givers when we accept this message! We ourselves, lowly and sinful creatures though we are, can share in the bearing of good fruit in the lives of those around us. Isaiah has told us of the relief offered to the weary who respond to God's call, and now he offers us the chance to ourselves be the providers of relief.

Once again, the prophet uses nature images to communicate his point. Images of nature are memorable, and also communicate the heart of God's message. All of nature - excepting only humanity - functions exactly as God intended it to, and is a continuous display of life in harmony with its Creator. Here, he wants us to

know that if we are willing to respond to God's call, two wondrous things will happen. First, we can begin to experience for ourselves the life God meant us to have, and second, we can be messengers of this same life to those around us. Isaiah paints an idyllic picture of a path filled with continuous songs and expressions of joy, with living things flourishing wherever our paths take us. The faithful believer has the capacity to spread light and life in the lives of others, not because the believer is perfect or pure or righteous, or even well-intentioned, but because the faithful Christian has the ability to point other persons to the source of life itself: the living God.

It is one of our deepest needs and strongest yearnings to have a purpose in life, to have something of value to offer the world. And we cannot ever genuinely fulfill this need on our own. Even if we devise or create something wildly popular or extremely useful in this physical world, there will still be an emptiness in our hearts, because anything that merely prolongs or enhances life in this physical world is only a temporary benefit, not a lasting one.

As if it were not already much more than we deserve, for God to offer to each of us the chance to receive forgiveness for every sinful and foolish thing we have ever done, thought, or said, as if it were not enough that we can be guaranteed a home in heaven forever with the Creator of the universe, and to have eternal security and joy, God also enables us to be the bearers of these indescribable blessings to those around us. He does not need us to do so, and he could do a better job himself. But it is an additional expression of his overflowing grace that he adds this to all of the other blessings that he gives us.

- Mark W. Garner

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Baptized Into Christ

There were 5 baptisms at Church Camp last week, they were: Andrew Branson, Laura Maynard, David McVicker, Abby Raybuck and Deidre West.
 Also Bessie McKenzie was baptized

New Address

The new home address and phone number for Bobby and Judy Graham is:
 668 Thistle Avenue, Gahanna Ohio, 43230
 Phone Number: 614-476-8357

Contributions

Last Week	\$4792	Avg YTD	\$5707
Russia	\$310	Avg YTD	\$273
Youth Min.	\$205	Avg YTD	\$332

Northland Church of Christ 4581 Cleveland Ave. Columbus, OH 43231 (614) 475-0161

A Father's Vision

When I was a boy, my father took me to a lot of baseball games, as all fathers should. Several times each year, we would go to the local stadium and watch the Toledo Mud Hens play teams like Pawtucket, Rochester, and Winnipeg. Besides being important in their own right, for the time spent together and everything that entails, one of these trips to a ballgame also led to an important discovery. As a child, I had very bad eyesight, but never knew it, and it was while watching a Mud Hens game together that my Dad realized that I needed eyeglasses.

Even as a boy, when I watched a baseball game I paid close attention, and usually knew the numbers of outs, balls, strikes, and so forth. But from time-to-time I would lose track, and had to ask Dad "How many strikes is that?", or "How many outs do they have?". All of this information was, of course, prominently displayed on the scoreboard in center field. I knew the scoreboard was there, but I could not read any of the numbers, because of my near-sightedness. I didn't know that this was the reason - I just thought that, because Dad was older, bigger, and stronger in so many other ways, his eyes were also capable of seeing a lot farther than mine were. (My Dad also wore glasses, but at the time I just assumed this was because he was smart.) It only took a few questions for my father to figure out what the problem was, and the next day I was off to the eye doctor. Soon afterwards, I learned that the real purpose of wearing eyeglasses was to help those with weak eyes see better.

Just as my father helped me to see the world around me more clearly, one of the most important responsibilities a Christian father has is to "see" things for his children that they cannot see for themselves. Young persons have a very limited perspective on the world, and even if their eyes function perfectly in a physical sense, they have very limited spiritual "sight". They need to develop perspective, vision, perception, and insight, and often these come painfully and slowly. A father who has a knowledge of God's Word and will, and who has a commitment to upholding spiritual truths, can help his children "see" the world much more clearly, and from a much more godly perspective. While fathers meet a great many important needs in the lives of their families, in a Christian home there is no more important need than this.

- Mark W. Garner

NORTHLAND
Messenger
 June 18, 2000 Volume 9, Number 25

Serving God

A FATHER'S PRAYER

Dear God, my little boy of three
Has said his nightly prayer to Thee.
Before his eyes were closed in sleep
He asked that Thou his soul would keep.
And I, still kneeling at his bed,
My had upon his tousled head,
Do ask with deep humility
That Thou, dear Lord, remember me.
Make me, kind Lord,
A worthy dad.
That I may lead this little lad
In pathways ever fair and bright,
That I may keep his steps aright.
O God, his trust must never be
Destroyed or even marred by me.
So for the simple things he prayed
With childish voice so unafraid,
I, trembling, ask the same from Thee.
Dear Lord, kind Lord,
Remember me.

Life Lines

Growth In Jesus

GIVE CAREFUL THOUGHT TO YOUR WAYS A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF HAGGAI

Week One: Historical Introduction (Haggai 1:1)

In the second year of King Darius, on the first day of the sixth month, the word of the Lord came through the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest: (Haggai 1:1)

The message of the minor prophet Haggai, who urged God's people to rebuild the temple after their return from Babylonian exile, is an important one for believers in any age. Haggai's ministry went far beyond the specific task of building the temple, in calling the people to a complete re-appraisal of their perspectives and priorities. Over the next few weeks, we shall study the short book of Haggai's prophecies, taking special note of the implications for our lives and ministries today. We shall begin this week with a look at the historical background to Haggai.

In 538 BC, after about seventy years of living in exile in Babylon, the Jews were allowed to return home by decree of Cyrus the Great, the Persian who had conquered the Babylonian Empire and taken over its territories. The disciplinary period that God had sent his people, for their persistent idolatry and stubbornness of heart, was now over, and a new era in their history was about to begin. The ruthless Babylonians were a suitable tool of discipline, but their harshness toward conquered peoples meant that they would never willingly allow the Jews to return to their homeland, and so God gave them over to the Persians, who were much more inclined to be generous to smaller nations that posed no military threat to their own Empire. Cyrus' decree came just a year after his conquest of Babylon, and the joyful return home soon began.

As the Jews began the process of rebuilding, it was most natural for them to wish to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem, which had for so many years been the center of Jewish life and worship. And indeed, when the first main body of returnees began the process of re-settling in about 536 BC, led by Zerubbabel (the governor) and Joshua (the high priest), one of the first projects they began was the work of rebuilding the temple, which had lain in ruins ever since the Babylonian invasion decades before. But this was a huge job, requiring a major commitment of time, effort, planning, and material resources. Even worse, it provoked resentment and fear amongst those foreigners who had since settled in the Jews' former homeland, and amongst those Jews who had remained behind when most of the nation had gone into exile. Because of all of these complications, work on the temple was soon abandoned, in 535 BC. The Jews devoted themselves instead to less difficult tasks, and in particular, they soon became more concerned with their own private needs and goals than with lofty projects such as rebuilding the temple.

By 520 BC, it became clear that the people's priorities were not going to change. God thus sent two prophets, Zechariah and Haggai, to convict the people of their need to re-focus themselves on more important priorities, and in particular to resume work on the temple. Zechariah's book of prophecy emphasizes a long-term perspective, and reveals many ways that God's plans for the Jews of Zechariah's day were important for the future. Haggai's book, which we shall be studying, is more down-to-earth. Haggai appealed to the people's experience and common sense, to convict them of the need for a better perspective, even on simple things in their daily lives.

- Mark W. Garner

Family Information

Food Pantry

We want the church to know the Food Pantry is alive and well! In spite of vacations, illness, etc. On June 7 we served 44 people-on June 14, 41 people-June 21, 25 people. Thanks to the "extra help" recruits and volunteers. Please continue to bring paper grocery bags-we also need saltine crackers, snacks, paper towels, and soup.

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Church Member Directory

Olan Mills will be putting together our member directory with pictures of all members for next year. We have scheduled them to come in and take everyone's pictures on October 5, 6, and 7. If you have your picture taken for the directory, you will receive a free directory and a free 8 X 10. You may also purchase additional pictures. Please mark your calendars and plan on being here on one of those dates. If you would like to be on a committee for this directory, please see Cindi Gillespie.

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July

- 5 50's Plus Meeting
- 16 50's Plus "Eat Out Sunday"
- 19 50's Plus Meeting
- 23 Church Services At Willow Brook
- 30 5th Sunday Activity

Thank You

We would like to thank God for all the hospital visits, and for all the concern showed for Airen. We thank God that Airen is doing well. We also thank God for Brian being there to pull Airen out of the water.

Emmanuel and Lynnice

Contributions

Last Week	\$5059	Avg YTD	\$5683
Russia	\$230	Avg YTD	\$271
Youth Min.	\$296	Avg YTD	\$331

Northland Church of Christ 4581 Cleveland Ave. Columbus, OH 43231 (614) 475-0161

N O R T H L A N D Messenger

June 25, 2000 Volume 9, Number 26

How Far Can You See?

Sam, an old man, was a witness in a burglary case. The defense lawyer asked Sam, "Did you see my client commit this burglary?"

"Yes," said Sam, "I saw him plainly take the goods."

The lawyer asks Sam again, "Sam, this happened at night. Are you sure you saw my client commit this crime?"

"Yes" says Sam, "I saw him do it."

Then the lawyer asks Sam, "Sam listen, you are 80 years old and your eyesight probably is bad. Just how far can you see at night?"

Sam says, "I can see the moon, how far is that?"

One of our greatest spiritual needs is the need to see. The need to see ourselves as God sees us. The need to see our sins and shortcomings. And a vision of what God wants us to be and what, by God's grace, we can become. One of sad realities, though, is that those in the New Testament who are described as being spiritually blind are those who think they can see just fine. Like the Christians in Laodicea:

"Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing' – and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked – I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see." (Rev. 3:17-18)

Alan Smith (Boone, NC)

Serving God

BEING INFORMATION JUNKIES DOESN'T MAKE US WISE!

We live in the information age. The Internet is our information highway. Just as the Industrial Revolution of the nineteenth century changed the way we work and live, the Technology Revolution of the twentieth century changed how we receive and use information.

Has the proliferation of information made us more knowledgeable and wiser? Do we live better lives because we know more? Too often people have more and do more, but lack wisdom. In looking for an accurate definition of wisdom I found a plethora of ideas and perspectives.

Confucius taught wisdom is learned by three methods. "Reflection which is noblest; imitation, which is the easiest; and experience, which is the bitterest." Samuel Coleridge said, "Common sense in an uncommon degree is what the world calls wisdom."

The Bible teaches that worldly wisdom and God's wisdom are not the same. In fact, it is foolish for Christians not to have God's kind of wisdom, because it's available to every believer. James wrote, "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith" (James 1:5,6). How can we increase our faith? The Apostle Paul wrote, "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" (Rom. 10:17). Growing in wisdom and knowledge is

directly connected to an ongoing in-depth study of God's Word.

Jesus spoke powerfully of wisdom. Let's consider three brief insights into God's kind of wisdom from His teaching in Matthew:

In the parable of the Ten Virgins (Matt. 25), He teaches the importance of preparation. The wise virgins were prepared for the coming of the bridegroom and the foolish virgins were not! The prepared were welcomed and the foolish were left out. A wise person is prepared to meet the Lord.

In the story of the two men who built their houses (Matt. 7), Jesus said one was wise and the other foolish. One built on the rock and the other on the sand. Jesus is speaking of the importance of building a life on the right foundation. Building a life that matters and that will last forever must be built on the Rock which is Jesus. To build otherwise is to build on sand – and that's foolish.

When sending out the seventy (Matt. 10), Jesus instructed them to "be as wise as serpents and as harmless as doves." The wise do not just live, but they live lives worth living in both time and eternity. To do that they need to be tough-minded but tender-hearted. Wise is the person who is strong in convictions (based upon the Word) and gentle in manner.

James 3:17 says, "But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and good deeds. It shows no partiality and is always sincere".

Bob Dasal, in Pulpit Helps

Growth In Jesus

GIVE CAREFUL THOUGHT TO YOUR WAYS: A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF HAGGAI

Week Two: Haggai's Appeal (Haggai 1:2-5)

This is what the Lord Almighty says: "These people say, 'The time has not yet come for the Lord's house to be built.'" Then the word of the Lord came through the prophet Haggai: "Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?" Now this is what the Lord Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways." (Haggai 1:2-5)

In their initial joy of returning to Jerusalem, the Jews had begun work on the temple, but the size of the project, and the opposition it had aroused, soon led them to abandon it. They turned to simpler tasks, and became especially concerned with their personal goals and dreams. For 15 years no work on the temple was done, and the partially rebuilt structure lay in ruins, waiting for God's people to return their attention to it. So in 520 BC, God sent Haggai, not only to convict the people of the need to get back to work on the temple, but also to convict them of a far more important general lesson about their priorities.

Starting an important project or ministry is exciting, and it is easy to develop zeal for such things. But as the realities of time, effort, and sacrifice become clearer, the initial enthusiasm wanes. We start to turn our attentions towards things that have less spiritual importance, solely because they are more achievable. We might resolve better to understand some of the more difficult portions of Scripture, but later we decide it would be more fun to take up a new hobby instead. We may have a goal of reaching a lost

soul with the gospel, but soon we find that it would be easier to settle for becoming more popular with the neighbors. This loss of motivation usually does not come from a bad heart, or from overt selfishness, or as a result of any conscious decision at all. Rather, we have been pushed down an easier path by the sheer weight of the commitment involved in carrying out a worthwhile ministry. Our response should be neither to condemn ourselves or others, nor to resign ourselves to spiritual ineffectiveness and mediocrity. Instead, we ought simply to heed Haggai's appeal to "give careful thought to your ways". No fewer than five times in his short book (1:5, 1:7, 2:15, and twice in 2:18) does the prophet urge us to do so.

Here is a brief outline of Haggai:

After his initial appeal (1:1-5), the prophet points out that a life of selfishness does not result in happiness or growth (1:6-11), but as soon as we accept and embrace God's will, he is with us, and we also become united in a common cause (1:12-15). God knows that we are prone to demoralization and fear, and when we listen for his call, he will provide us with the encouragement we need (2:1-6). God's power and glory are greater than we can imagine, and if we are only patient, we shall see them displayed (2:7-9). We so easily render ourselves unfit to be used for God's purposes (2:10-17), but if we take care to watch our paths, and stay in his will, he will pour out spiritual blessings on us (2:18-19). The book concludes with a personal exhortation given to Zerubbabel, which emphasizes the importance of spiritual leadership and initiative (2:20-23).

- Mark W. Garner

Family Information

Food Pantry

We want the church to know the Food Pantry is alive and well! In spite of vacations, illness, etc. On June 7 we served 44 people-on June 14, 41 people-June 21, 25 people. Thanks to the "extra help" recruits and volunteers. Please continue to bring paper grocery bags-we also need saltine crackers, snacks, paper towels, and soup.

Teen Info

The teens, including 6th grade and up, will once again meet at the park on Sunday evenings. Our time at Sharon Woods Park will include small group studies, fellowship, games and food. We encourage all teens to be there and friends too.

Church Member Directory

Olan Mills will be putting together our member directory with pictures of all members for next year. We have scheduled them to come in and take everyone's pictures on October 5, 6, and 7. If you have your picture taken for the directory, you will receive a free directory and a free 8 X 10. You may also purchase additional pictures. Please mark your calendars and plan on being here on one of those dates. If you would like to be on a committee for this directory, please see Cindi Gillespie.

Services

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am
 Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am
 Sunday Evening 5:30 pm
 Wednesday Evening 7:00 pm

Elders: Wilbur Allen, Frank Chappell, Roy Estep, Gene Prince, Ray Thorne
Deacons: Brian Arnold, Tom Barnhardt, Joe Barozzini, John Bradley, Steve Carver, Lynn Champney, Darrell Estep, Jack Evans, Don Gillespie, Lou Lawrence, Jack Mauersberg, Beryl McMasters, Mark Morris, Charlie Yates

Evangelists: Mike Hipes, Tom Barnhardt, Bobby Graham

Northland Church of Christ 4581 Cleveland Ave. Columbus, OH 43231 (614) 475-0161

Calendar

July

5 50's Plus Meeting
 11 Summer Youth Series At Northland
 16 50's Plus "Eat Out Sunday"
 19 50's Plus Meeting
 23 Church Services At Willow Brook
 30 5th Sunday Activity

Summer Youth Series

Northland will host the Summer Youth Series on Tuesday, July 11th, at 7:00 p.m. Once again we are providing ice cream Sundays for refreshments. If you can donate money, toppings or your "Scooping Talents", please see a youth leader. We will also have a table in the foyer after Wednesday and Sunday services. Your contributions and your attendance is appreciated. Please join us, Thank you.

Contributions

Last Week	\$4835	Avg YTD	\$5651
Russia	\$255	Avg YTD	\$270
Youth Min.	\$325	Avg YTD	\$330

N O R T H L A N D Messenger

Volume 9, Number 27
 July 2, 2000

Set Free

Professor MacDonald, of a university in Glasgow, Scotland, and a Scottish chaplain were captured by the Germans in World War II. For some reason, MacDonald was put into the American compound, while the Scottish chaplain was put in the British compound. A high wire fence separated the two compounds.

Unknown to the German guards, the Americans had constructed a little homemade radio, by which they were able to get news from outside. Everyday, MacDonald would listen to the new on the radio, then go to the fence and share it with the chaplain in the ancient Gaelic language, which none of the Germans could understand.

One day, news came over the little radio that the German high command had surrendered to the Allies and that the war was over. MacDonald took the news to his friend, then watched him disappear into the barracks. A moment later, a roar of celebration resounded from the barracks.

Life in that camp was transformed. The prisoners walked around, singing and shouting joyfully. They waved at the guards and even laughed at the guard dogs. Three nights later when the German guards finally heard the news, they fled into the dark, leaving the gates unlocked. The next morning, the British and American P.O.W.'s walked out as free men, but they were truly set free three days earlier by the news that the war was over.

We are told in Hebrews 2:14-15 (NIV): *"Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity, so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death - that is, the devil - and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death."*

The Christian is already free from the power of death and the fear of death, and is therefore free to serve the Lord Jesus Christ, without any fear of what Satan might do. The devil is a defeated enemy, and death is an empty threat for the one who is in Christ. And even though we aren't in heaven yet, we know the outcome of the war.

Bill Driver
 (The Aloha Spirit)

Serving God

CHRIST'S FORGOTTEN MIRACLE

Isn't it strange that we celebrate the coming of Christ to this earth but not His return to the heaven from which He came? Sad but true, that we make a major production of our Lord's coming – Christmas – but almost wholly ignore His departure – Ascension Day.

The greatest miracle in the life of Christ was His ascension into heaven. The Ascension was the pledge that the first Spacetraveler who touched down on earth for a few brief years would return. The awe-bound disciples, staring upward at their homebound Lord, were even more awed when glittering visitors spoke the promise: "Why stand there looking up into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken from you to heaven, will come in the same way you have seen him go" (Acts 1:11, NEB).

Only after the Ascension – always celebrated on Thursday, forty days after Resurrection Day (thus June 1 this year) – was the human race so fully privileged to approach the Almighty. Only after the Ascension would the Holy Spirit be "poured out on all flesh." Only after the Ascension could Christ come again "with power and great glory."

Consider the awesome work of the Most High in man's redemption: God's Son invaded human history and walked in scuffed sandals. He lived the perfect life and taught perfect doctrine. He was suspended on a bandit's cross to die. He was put in the tomb, but it could not hold him.

The grave's Conqueror "showed himself alive after his passion," then stepped off into infinity. He went back to where He came from! He said "I go my way to him who sent me" (John 16:5).

Jesus went home in a glorified body. Jesus' body was buried; yet He arose with a resurrected body which later ascended into heaven. This is the first example of the kind of body we will have in our heavenly home. Enoch was taken – we do not know how – to be with God without suffering death. But Jesus didn't need

any guide or helper. He knew where His Father was – Jesus had lived there from before the foundation of the world. He simply returned to His home in glory.

Ephesians 1:20-23 tells us what the Ascension means: "(God) raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: and hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all."

The Ascension is a declaration that Jesus Christ reigns everywhere. Since He is "at the right hand of God" and since God is omnipresent, the sovereignty of Christ is universal. It extends over the whole of mankind and the whole range of man's experience. It is not only over the church, but over the secular world, as well. Even where He is least recognized, His is the final power, and, in the long run, every realm of life must acknowledge His lordship.

The day will come when we will all stand at the judgment seat of Christ. There He will speak the last word. We will hear, "Come, ye blessed of my father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world" (Matt. 25:23). Or we will hear, "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire" (vs. 41). There will be no appeal from that final word of authority.

We will see Christ as He comes through the cloven skies with the glory of the Father and all the holy angels. With undeniable authority we will be summoned to stand before the throne of His glory. There every knee shall bow and every tongue confess "that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Would to God that more people in this modern day, whether they be the rulers or the ruled, had the grace to bow today in humble faith before Him who is the sovereign Lord of all!

Morris Chalfant

Growth In Jesus

GIVE CAREFUL THOUGHT TO YOUR WAYS A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF HAGGAI

Week Three: Expectations & Reality (Haggai 1:6-11)

"You have planted much, but have harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it." This is what the Lord Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways. Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build the house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored," says the Lord. "You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why?" declares the Lord Almighty. "Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with his own house. Therefore, because of you the heavens have withheld their dew and the earth its crops. I called for a drought on the fields and the mountains, on the grain, the new wine, the oil and whatever the ground produces, on men and cattle, and on the labor of your hands." (Haggai 1:6-11)

Haggai's call is for God's people to "give careful thought to their ways". The goals and dreams that humans pursue so often lead not to happiness or security, as they desperately expect, but to disappointment and frustration. Unfortunately, we often place the blame for this on God, instead of our own flawed perspective. The reason why most persons act in a selfish and ungodly fashion is because they mistakenly think that such behavior is the road to happiness. But Haggai tells us that the selfish lifestyle does not lead to any good at all, and that there is another way to fulfillment.

God appeals to his people's experience and common sense. Most of them have devoted the best of their time and energy to serving themselves, showing limited concern for serving God or his people, giving only when it proved convenient and painless. They expected that by so doing they would become prosperous and happy. From a worldly perspective, the logic seems clear: If I spend time on myself, pursuing goals important to me, then I will be happier than if I were spending time and energy doing things for God or others, things that cannot benefit me. Despite the obvious selfishness of such a perspective, even many believers can still feel in their hearts that they would be happier if they kept more for themselves, and can even end up envying those who are more selfish, falsely believing that they are happier.

God calls us to set aside superficial worldly logic and think about what really happens. While the selfish appear satisfied on the outside, their restless striving means that they can never be contented, no matter how much they have, while those with a godly perspective can be far happier with much less. Strong-willed persons who threaten and intimidate others may seem to be getting their way all of the time, but such behavior is by no means a sign of strength; rather it reveals a desperate insecurity and emptiness inside these persons. Their frantic and ugly ways of manipulating and exploiting others are a hopeless attempt to make themselves feel better. On the other hand, only those who give up their own self-will to pursue the will of God know the deep peace that comes from finding a joy that does not depend on temporary, short-term conditions or behavior of others, because they know that God is in control and that his ways eventually will prevail.

- Mark W. Garner

Family Information

Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is in need of the following: Bar soap, shampoo, paper towels, tooth brushes, soup.

Congratulations !!

Sara Gillespie gave birth to a baby boy on Wednesday July 5th at 3:11 p.m. His name is Camdon Eliajha, 21 inches long, 7 lbs., 11 oz. Sara, the baby, Don, Cindi and Justin are all doing fine.

Prayers Request

Could you please pray for my sister's niece, Alyson Black. She is only two years old and has cancer. In November, she had been diagnosed with lymphoma and had been receiving chemo treatments for it, but now they have found that the cancer is even worse. She has recently been diagnosed with T-cell acute leukemia, in addition to the lymphoma. She is hospitalized and very very ill. The only remaining treatment is experimental. If it proves effective, it would be followed, in 2 or 3 months, by full body radiation and bone marrow transplant. This is a very bad situation and the whole family is struggling. Please pray for Alyson and her family, as well as for my sister, Kay Butterfield, as she herself is recovering from serious surgery to remove a brain tumor. Thank you for your prayers.

Susan Binkley

Services

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am
 Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am
 Sunday Evening 5:30 pm
 Wednesday Evening 7:00 pm

Elders: Wilbur Allen, Frank Chappell, Roy Estep, Gene Prince, Ray Thorne
Deacons: Brian Arnold, Tom Barnhardt, Joe Barozzini, John Bradley, Steve Carver, Lynn Champney, Darrell Estep, Jack Evans, Don Gillespie, Lou Lawrence, Jack Mauersberg, Beryl McMasters, Mark Morris, Charlie Yates

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July

11 Summer Youth Series At Northland
 16 50's Plus "Eat Out Sunday"
 18 Summer Youth Series At Reynoldsburg
 19 50's Plus Meeting
 23 Church Services At Willow Brook
 25 Summer Youth Series At Circleville
 30 5th Sunday Activity

Address Change

Kristen Barozzini and Michelle McDaniel have a new address, 5605 Little Ben Circle Apt. B, Columbus Ohio 43231.

Summer Youth Series

Northland will host the Summer Youth Series on Tuesday, July 11th, at 7:00 p.m. Once again we are providing ice cream Sundays for refreshments. If you can donate money, toppings or your "Scooping Talents", please see a youth leader. We will also have a table in the foyer after Wednesday and Sunday services. Your contributions and your attendance is appreciated. Please join us, Thank you.

Contributions

Last Week	\$5164	Avg YTD	\$5634
Russia	\$150	Avg YTD	\$266
Youth Min.	\$252	Avg YTD	\$328

Northland Church of Christ 4581 Cleveland Ave. Columbus, OH 43231 (614) 475-0161

NORTHLAND Messenger

Volume 9, Number 28
 July 9, 2000

Loneliness Can Be Overcome

Elvis Presley used to begin a song with the words: "Are you lonely to-night?" Was he himself lonely? The Psalmist wrote, "Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely..." (Ps. 25:16).

Loneliness is about as common as the common cold in our society. It is estimated that over 10 percent of our population at any given time is lonely. Albert Einstein once said, "It's a strange thing to be so universally known and yet be so lonely." Paul Tournier called loneliness the most devastating malady of his time. One popular Christian counselor observed that loneliness was the most frequent problem he encountered in his practice. Loneliness is linked to such things as suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, shyness, delinquency, immorality in women, and high-risk behavior in men. This list could be easily expanded. The loneliest people in our culture are: those with low income, single teenage mothers, alcoholics, college students, high school seniors, divorced people and the elderly.

William Backus has written, "Loneliness results not from our ugliness but from our misbeliefs. Anxieties control a person's behavior to the point that they refuse to work at forming relationships." Loneliness has been referred to as a painful awareness that we lack meaningful contact with others. One psychologist called it a unique clinical problem. Too often people choose what they believe is a lesser pain (loneliness) rather than risk what they feel is a potentially greater pain (rejection). Lonely people typically feel unwanted, unworthy, isolated, or even unnecessary. As loneliness grows, frustration increases and desperation sets in, creating a high probability of violent behavior. When healthy beliefs, however, replace dysfunctional thought patterns, we can move away from loneliness. The Bible has many encouraging passages that help us, such as Hebrews 13:5 and Psalm 27:10.

Can we effectively overcome loneliness or cope positively with lonely feelings? We can and as God's children we should. There are at least three simple practices we can utilize that will aid in minimizing loneliness:

- 1) Have a personal, daily walk with Christ;
- 2) Maintain ties of love with healthy people; and
- 3) Develop a wholesome appreciation for yourself based on who you are as God's child.

Loneliness is not a fixed state. It is a condition that can be changed. Most lonely people are not alone. There is hope in Christ and His truth.

James Rudy Gray

Serving God

ZEAL WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE

The following story is one that is reported to have been told by Napoleon to spark Patriotism among his men:

Once, while visiting a province he came upon an old soldier in full uniform but with one sleeve hanging empty. He proudly wore the coveted Legion of Honor. Napoleon asked, "Where did you lose your arm?" The soldier answered, "At Austerlitz, sire."

Napoleon asked, "And for that you received the Legion of Honor?" The man said, "Yes, sire. It is but a small token to pay for the decoration." Napoleon continued, "You must be the kind of man who regrets he did not lose both arms for his country."

The one-armed asked, "What then would have been my reward?" Napoleon answered, "I would have awarded you a double Legion of Honor." And with that, the proud old fighter drew his sword and immediately cut off his other arm.

What a great story of patriotic duty! It apparently was quite effective in stirring up in Napoleon's men a desire to sacrifice even more for the cause of France!

There's only one problem with the story.

You may have already noticed the inconsistency. But apparently it was years before anyone dared to ask Napoleon the question, "How did the soldier cut off his arm with only one arm to do it with?"

Nice story. Stirring, moving, motivating... but it wasn't true. It's possible for the same thing to happen to us in a religious sense. We can get all "fired up" without much thought as to the truth of what we're getting excited about. Paul said of those who were motivated in such a way:

"...They are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge." (Romans 10:2, NIV)

Zeal is good. We all need more of it. But we need to make certain that our enthusiasm is firmly based on our knowledge of God's will.

Alan Smith
(Boone, NC)

"For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. Since they did not know the righteousness that comes from God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness."

Romans 6:2-3

Growth In Jesus

GIVE CAREFUL THOUGHT TO YOUR WAYS A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF HAGGAI

Week Four: Unity From Seeking God's Will (Haggai 1:12-15)

Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the whole remnant of the people obeyed the voice of the Lord their God and the message of the prophet Haggai, because the Lord their God had sent him. And the people feared the Lord. Then Haggai, the Lord's messenger, gave this message of the Lord to the people: "I am with you," declares the Lord. So the Lord stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of the whole remnant of the people. They came and began to work on the house of the Lord Almighty, their God, on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month in the second year of King Darius. (Haggai 1:12-15)

Although Haggai's appeal for the people to re-focus their priorities and energies was a challenge, they knew immediately that God was speaking through the prophet. Most responded quickly with a readiness to do as God asked, to work together on the temple rebuilding and other projects of spiritual importance. When they made this decision in their hearts, several significant things happened. Most fundamentally, they received the immediate assurance that God would be with them in all they did. Then, God strengthened the hearts of their leaders, Zerubbabel the governor and Joshua the high priest. Finally, the people as a whole were unified and strengthened in a way that could not have happened when they were seeking their own agendas. The picture is one of complete

unity: the people with each other, the people with their leaders, and all of them with God.

All of us long in our hearts to experience a genuine unity and fellowship with other humans and with God. Indeed, loneliness is one of the most pervasive of human fears. Unbelievers do a great many ridiculous (and often sinful) things in a desperate attempt to find some sort of acceptance and camaraderie from other persons. Their craving for acceptance overrides all questions of right and wrong, of truth and falsehood. The sad thing is that the blessings they seek are available freely, and without limit, only by seeking God and his will. But rather than bash the pagans, we must examine our own hearts. Haggai's message, after all, was directed at God's people, not the irreligious.

It is a basic and pervasive teaching of Scripture that genuine unity can only be achieved among those who have sacrificed their worldly goals and agendas so that they can unite in accordance with God's will. Any other basis for unity or acceptance is fragile and deceptive, and can at best produce only a temporary alliance among those who find each other useful for pursuing some short-term objective. If we desire to know genuine unity in the body, we must be ready to give up not only any self-centered focus we may have on worldly things, but also any human agendas or goals for the church. God's designs hold much more wisdom and go much deeper and farther than any of our own. It is only those of us who are willing to discard not only our fleshly and worldly goals, but also our own preconceptions about the church itself, who can know a real and lasting unity that will be based on a complete humility in the face of God's wisdom, and on a genuine readiness to pursue his will whole-heartedly.

- Mark W. Garner

Family Information

Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is in need of the following: Bar soap, shampoo, paper towels, tooth brushes, soup.

Summer Youth Series

This past Tuesday we hosted the Summer Youth Series and it was a huge success. About 250 kids and adults enjoyed great skits by our youth group. Afterward all enjoyed ice cream. Many thanks go to Emily Thorne for writing a creative skit, Bobby Graham for being our MC, Vicki for everything and to everyone else who contributed to make it a huge success.

Think About It!

When the Lord's white sheep become dirty gray, all black sheep feel more comfortable.

It takes more grace and patience to remain on the mountain than it does to get there

Many a man's idea of charity is to give unto others the advice he won't take himself.

Instead of being thankful when their cups runneth over, too many people pray for a bigger cup.

The secret of patience is doing something else in the meantime. -Bulletin Inserts

Services

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am
 Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am
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 Wednesday Evening 7:00 pm

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Calendar

July

- 16 50's Plus "Eat Out Sunday"
- 18 Summer Youth Series At Reynoldsburg
- 19 50's Plus Meeting
- 23 Church Services At Willow Brook
- 23 Sunday Fun Day At Northland Mall For Junior and High School, 2:00 p.m.
- 25 Summer Youth Series At Circleville
- 27 Junior High Bible Study And Frisbee Golf At The Park 10:00 a.m.
- 30 5th Sunday Activity

August

- 2 50's Plus Meeting
- 10 Junior High and High School Girls Devo And Sleepover At The Gales'
- 10 Junior High and High School Boys Devo And Sleepover At The Graham's
- 14 16 And Over Work Day At Cedar Point 11:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. Then All Rides Are Free
- 16 50's Plus Meeting
- 20 50's Plus "Eat Out Sunday"
- 22 Junior High And High School Trip To Wyandot Lake 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
- 25-26 Junior High And High School Sleepover At The McGuire's

Contributions

Last Week	\$5368	Avg YTD	\$5625
Russia	\$365	Avg YTD	\$269
Youth Min.	\$245	Avg YTD	\$325

N O R T H L A N D Messenger

July 16, 2000 Volume 9, Number 29

What Time Is It

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down and a time to build up; A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; A time to cast away stone, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace: (Eccl. 3:1-8).

We are so time-conscious in our society. Indeed we need to recognize that life is brief. "Man that is born of woman is of few days, and full of trouble" (Job 14:1). "Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away" (James 4:14). We need to be good stewards of time. "Redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (Eph. 5:16)

Much time has been spent in speculation and condemnation. We need to spend our time in evangelization! "For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succored thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (II Cor. 6:2)

Trent McCluskey
 Via VIGIL

*"For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation."
 2 Corinthians 6:2*

Serving God

PITY PARTIES

"Now as the service is ending," said our pastor, "I want you to go to others in the congregation who have been a blessing to you and tell them how much you appreciate them!"

As I sat at the organ playing softly, I watched the people mingle, hugging, shaking hands, smiling. Some went to our pianist, David, but no one came to me. I began feeling sorry for myself. They don't appreciate me or all I have done for them! I thought. I've sent cards when they were ill or grieving. I've prayed for and with them, I've faithfully played the organ. Nobody loves me! Yes, I was having a real "pity party"!

One man did finally come up and express his appreciation. But I still felt hurt as I walked out of church that night. As I started driving home, I was filled with wrong thoughts. Ooo, I thought, I'm thinking bitter – and I'm miserable! If I allow this kind of thinking to continue, I'll no longer have my peace and joy, or enjoy going to my church! But I felt so put out, I couldn't even seem to hold it up to the Lord, as I usually did with such nonsense. So I simply cried, "Help, Lord! I'm hurting!"

Right away He started setting me straight. "Now, Muriel," He seemed to say, "who are you thinking about right now?" "Myself," I answered. "And whom have you been serving?" "You, Lord," I replied.

"You know those people love and appreciate you. They didn't need to tell you that tonight. So now put that all aside. I want to bring something else to your attention."

Now maybe this wasn't exactly the conversation we had; but I knew the Lord was laying this on me. And I suddenly remembered something: two others in key positions in our church had been feeling sorry for themselves just that morning! When I had talked to them individually, they had both seemed to feel unappreciated. Now it seemed as if the Lord were asking, "What does this suggest to you?"

"Those of us in key positions in our church are under satanic attack!"

This completely snapped me out of the self-pity I had wallowed in. As I came out, I once again felt Christ's peace and joy in my heart.

I've got to share this with those other two, I thought. But how? I don't want to offend them. Then I realized that the best way would be for me to tell them the truth about myself and my self-pity. Then I could share how I believed the Lord had revealed to me that we were under satanic attack.

I knew it wouldn't show me in the best light; but I did it the following Wednesday night, privately to each man. Both men admitted that they, too, had been feeling down and unappreciated, and that Satan probably was trying to make them discontented and rob them of peace. And that's how the Lord helped three of us snap out of our "pity parties"!

Truly, we Christians need to be alert to thoughts and attitudes that might drag us down! The Apostle Peter wrote, "Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour" (1 Pet. 5:8). Let's consider the dangers of our holding pity parties for ourselves – and the antidote: the wisdom of His Word.

God tells us that when we received His Son as our Savior, we get anew self (2 Cor. 5:17). Ephesians 4 and Colossians 3 tell us how to keep that new self in control. Romans 6 tells us to reckon ourselves dead to sin, but alive to God. Romans 7 shows how miserable and defeated the self-centered person is. Romans 8 shows how deliverance and victory are possible through living in the Spirit. Philippians 2 encourages us to have the humble mind of Christ; if we live by this passage, we'll have victory over discontent and self-pity.

Christ's sermon on the mount (Matthew 5-7) tells us how to live in peace with God, man, and ourselves. When we forgive others, love those who spitefully use us, and return good for evil, self-pity doesn't stand a chance!

Rejoice in the Lord always (Phil. 4:4).

Muriel Larson

Growth In Jesus

GIVE CAREFUL THOUGHT TO YOUR WAYS A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF HAGGAI

Week Five: Encouragement Through Godly Perspective (Haggai 2:1-6)

On the twenty-first day of the seventh month, the word of the Lord came through the prophet Haggai: "Speak to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, to Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to the remnant of the people. Ask them, 'Who of you is left who saw this house in its former glory? How does it look to you now? Does it not seem to you like nothing? But now be strong, O Zerubbabel,' declares the Lord. 'Be strong, O Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land,' declares the Lord, 'and work. For I am with you,' declares the Lord Almighty. 'This is what I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt. And my Spirit remains among you. Do not fear.' "This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'In a little while I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land.'" (Haggai 2:1-6)

The temple rebuilding had been discontinued because the discouragements, sacrifices, and obstacles involved soon overwhelmed the people. Here, the prophet addresses one particular discouraging factor: their tendency, natural in God's people in any era, to compare their work with seemingly greater things that God had done in the past.

A very few of the Jews had seen the original temple, and the rest had all heard about it. That was the legendary and glorious structure built in Solomon's reign, which for centuries was the center of religious life in Judah, celebrated not

only throughout Israel, but among the surrounding nations as well. By comparison, the new temple was shaping up to be a humble structure, not worthy of comparison with the old, in the eyes of many. When Solomon had built the original temple, over four centuries earlier, he was a powerful king, whom the surrounding nations were eager to please. He had access to all of Israel's own wealth, and received valuable materials and labor from neighboring kings wishing to earn his friendship. But in the days of Haggai, the Jews were refugees, with no wealth and no political or military strength. They thus had to make do with limited materials and manpower, even after Zechariah and Haggai motivated them to continue rebuilding. The new structure was thus far less impressive, on the outside, than the original temple.

Humans all have a tendency to focus on the external, to focus on things that can be counted or assigned a price tag. But God is more concerned with spiritual values. It made no difference to God whether they built his house out of gold and silver or out of stone and wood, as long as he knew the people were giving him the best of their time and effort. Christians also must always remember this principle. The success of our ministries is not measured in terms of buildings or dollars or numbers of any kind. Worldly-minded believers who seek to evaluate Christian ministry in such terms are doomed to be filled with either frustration or pride. It is not us but God who can "once more shake the heavens and the earth", and if we remember in our hearts that it depends on him, not on us, we can pursue the ministries to which he has called us in confidence and joy.

- Mark W. Garner

Family Information

Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is in need of the following: paper towels, tea, kleenex, canned fruits, saltine crackers.

Picnic At The Park

Friday July 28th, 6:30 p.m. at the Apple Ridge area in Sharon Woods Park. Bring a meat and drinks for your family and a dish to share. Everyone is invited. See Tina Marie for more details.

Ladies

The CAPA Summer Movie Series will be showing "Gone With The Wind" on Saturday August 5th at 7:30 p.m. If you are interested in going please see Jen Cvelbar so we may all go as a group.

Thank You

Thanks to all those who helped with the Summer Youth Series. It was A BIG SUCCESS. The kids had a great time. Love, the Youth Leaders.

Thank You

Thank you to Charlie and Deloise for opening up their home last Saturday for the Grahams. Thank you to all the people who were so generous and participated. You are truly a wonderful family of God. Love, the Grahams

Services

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am
 Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am
 Sunday Evening 5:30 pm
 Wednesday Evening 7:00 pm

Elders: Wilbur Allen, Frank Chappell, Roy Estep, Gene Prince, Ray Thorne
Deacons: Brian Arnold, Tom Barnhardt, Joe Barozzini, John Bradley, Steve Carver, Lynn Champney, Darrell Estep, Jack Evans, Don Gillespie, Lou Lawrence, Jack Mauersberg, Beryl McMasters, Mark Morris, Charlie Yates
Evangelists: Mike Hipes, Tom Barnhardt, Bobby Graham

Calendar

July

- 23 Church Services At Willow Brook
- 23 Sunday Fun Day At Northland Mall For Junior and High School, 2:00 p.m.
- 25 Summer Youth Series At Circleville
- 27 Junior High Bible Study And Frisbee Golf At The Park 10:00 a.m.
- 28 Picnic At The Park, Sharon Woods Park Apple Ridge Area
- 30 5th Sunday Activity

August

- 2 50's Plus Meeting
- 10 Junior High and High School Girls Devo And Sleepover At The Gales'
- 10 Junior High and High School Boys Devo And Sleepover At The Graham's
- 14 16 And Over Work Day At Cedar Point 11:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. Then All Rides Are Free
- 16 50's Plus Meeting
- 20 50's Plus "Eat Out Sunday"
- 22 Junior High And High School Trip To Wyandot Lake 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
- 25-26 Junior High And High School Sleepover At The McGuire's

Contributions

Last Week	\$5184	Avg YTD	\$5610
Russia	\$290	Avg YTD	\$246
Youth Min.	\$246	Avg YTD	\$322

Northland Church of Christ 4581 Cleveland Ave. Columbus, OH 43231 (614) 475-0161

What Is A Family

Warmth when the world is cold...safety when the world is hostile...a place of love in a world of hate...a place of light in the midst of darkness...

This is a family...A family is many things...it is devotion sitting on a pew together...A mother singing as she goes about preparing supper...father happily playing with laughing children. A family is a yell squad when victory is won...a place of understanding and starting again when a defeat must be endured.

It is a very private organization – only bona fide members are allowed in...As a poet said, "All of us are we..and every one else is they." It is held together with the glue of love and the cement of mutual respect.

The family is a shelter from the storm...a safe and friendly port when the waves of life become too wild. No person is ever alone if he is a member of a family. The smile of a mother...the robust laughter of a father...the giggle of daughters...the shouts of sons. That's a family.

They may taunt one another...they must fight, fuss and bicker among each other...but, when trouble threatens from outside forces, instantly the ranks close and the troops unite against the common foe.

A family is all of these things...but, most of all, a family is a group of human beings working together to build something beautiful and lasting.

A family is a colony of heavenly bliss...right here on earth.

Relate all of this to Paul's statement in I Timothy 3:15 which says the church is "the family of God."

The Lord's Way

NORTHLAND
 Messenger

July 23, 2000 Volume 9, Number 30

Serving God

MATURE SONS OF GOD

To have a Spirit-led church, you are going to have to have a church made up of Spirit-led individuals, particularly in leadership. Paul, in the book of Romans says "For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God" (8:14).

The word used for "sons" is "huios" which means "mature sons." So I believe that Paul is saying that the mature child of God is the one being led by the Spirit of God. He is among those who are living under grace, Romans 6:14, not depending upon their flesh but depending upon the Spirit of God in and through their lives. In the context, these would be contrasted with those being "driven by the law." Oh what a difference of being driven by the law and being led by the Spirit!

Paul, of course, has just come out of chapter seven where he has shown the frustration of trying to live under the law, or to put it another way, to go about our Christianity our own way. He has shown the tendency of our flesh to respond to law. All believers have the potential to respond to law in one of two ways: either rebelliously or religiously. Back in Romans 1:18-32 he showed the rebellious side and in 2:1-3:20 he showed us the religious side. Either way one chooses to go with the law, that person has just denied the "leading of God's Spirit" because they do what they do in their own power.

People who choose to "do it their way" are those who measure everything by what they do. They cannot truly give glory to Christ because of their own self-sufficiency. But those who choose not to live under law, but live under grace, know what their flesh cannot do and "put no confidence in their flesh" (Phil. 3:3), instead depending upon Christ and His Word and what He can do through them.

When you have leaders in a church who are enamored with themselves and their own ability, then you are immediately cast into the current of "what a man can do for God." But, when you have leaders who realize daily what they cannot do, and who know without question how little they amount to apart from God, then you have those who will be "led by the Spirit of God." With this attitude, Christ is free to build His church through those surrendered lives. Ministry becomes "received" rather than "achieved."

Tragically, we all have the tendency to attempt to clone what God is doing somewhere else, as if it is what He wants to do with us in our churches. Church growth conferences become nothing more than marketing schemes of other's ideas that have worked, instead of us allowing God to do uniquely what He wants to do through us where we are.

The arrogance of flesh is astounding. My son and I were talking recently about the fact that it is so amazing that God can use any of us. When I think of all I know but do not live, and then how often I so proudly think I have something to offer God other than my abandonment to Him, it is overwhelming that God puts up with me for a single second. Imagine how all this flesh appears to the world that does not understand God and how He works. They see us parade and reward our flesh and hear us give God token credit.

The bottom line of all that has been on my heart in these articles concerning the "church" and its "growth" is that we must come back to square one - which is simply being overwhelmed with the fact that God even loves us; and to the fact that He allows us to be a part of what He is doing. It is His design and it is His power and it is His creativity, and it all should give glory to Him for what He does in and through His people. It should never in any way point to man and his ability.

Wayne Barber

Growth In Jesus

GIVE CAREFUL THOUGHT TO YOUR WAYS A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF HAGGAI

Week Six: God Has the Power & the Glory (Haggai 2:7-9)

I will shake all nations, and the desired of all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory,' says the Lord Almighty. 'The silver is mine and the gold is mine,' declares the Lord Almighty. 'The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,' says the Lord Almighty. 'And in this place I will grant peace,' declares the Lord Almighty.' (Haggai 2:7-9)

In the previous verses (last week), God had addressed the people's tendency to become discouraged with the new temple because of comparing it with its more lavish and celebrated predecessor. God always values the spiritual more than things that can be measured or counted, but he knows how hard it is for humans to make this same adjustment in their own thinking. He therefore wants to assure us that, while the things we do in our ministries may be unimpressive and humble by earthly standards, he has the power to turn them into something quite glorious, by his standards. When the people became discouraged, because it seemed as if their efforts could not produce anything as glorious as the first temple, they had forgotten the real meaning of glory.

Humans never have any real power, and likewise they never do anything that merits any real glory. When we forget this, even for a short time, it creates insecurity, frustration,

envy, depression, and many other negative results. When we expect instead that it is God who will do great and glorious things, that it is God who should receive the glory, that it is God who can fulfill our needs and dreams, then we find a secure ground for hope and confidence. Ministries and responsibilities that once seemed oppressive or impossible become pleasant and fulfilling. For the small price in humility that we must pay, in order to accept in our hearts that God is the focal point of all power and glory, this realization yields many rewards and blessings.

It is God who can "shake the nations", and it is God who can fill his house with glory. Hebrews 12:26-28 reminds us that this promise - and the challenge it implies - is for Christians, too. It is a privilege for us to participate in the fulfillment of his plans, and it is a responsibility of believers to be ready for God to use them, but it does not depend on us in any way. And when we can accept this, we shall find that the glorious things God can do will far outshine the fleshly acts that we can accomplish on our own strength. Let us stop looking at ourselves and seeing our own fleshly strengths and limitations. Let us also avoid making comparisons with what God has done through others, and even with what God has done in the past through us. Instead, let us look to God and remember that he is an inexhaustible source of power, energy, and love.

- Mark W. Garner

Family Information

Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is in need of the following: paper towels, tea, kleenex, canned fruits, saline crackers.

Ladies

The CAPA Summer Movie Series will be showing "Gone With The Wind" on Saturday August 5th at 7:30 p.m. If you are interested in going please see Jen Cvelbar so we may all go as a group.

Thank You

Thank you for your participation in the 2000 Commodities Outreach. On July 8 we received your total commodities gift of \$300. The commodities program has grown each year and has provided the entire food needs of those served at Potter Children's Home. Because of your concern, you have made this outreach a tremendous success. Thank you, and may God continue to bless you in His service. Rick Shur, Minister of Christian Stewardship, Potter Children's Home.

Thought For The Week

If you can't sleep, don't count sheep; talk to the shepherd.

A Bible that's falling apart usually belongs to a person who isn't.

Services

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am
 Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am
 Sunday Evening 5:30 pm
 Wednesday Evening 7:00 pm

Elders: Wilbur Allen, Frank Chappell, Roy Estep, Gene Prince, Ray Thorne
Deacons: Brian Arnold, Tom Barnhardt, Joe Barozzini, John Bradley, Steve Carver, Lynn Champney, Darrell Estep, Jack Evans, Don Gillespie, Lou Lawrence, Jack Mauersberg, Beryl McMasters, Mark Morris, Charlie Yates

Evangelists: Mike Hipes, Tom Barnhardt, Bobby Graham

Calendar

July

30 5th Sunday Activity

August

2 50's Plus Meeting
 5 CAPA Summer Movie Series "Gone With The Wind" 7:30 p.m.
 10 Junior High and High School Girls Devo And Sleepover At The Gales'
 10 Junior High and High School Boys Devo And Sleepover At The Graham's
 14 16 And Over Work Day At Cedar Point 11:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. Then All Rides Are Free
 16 50's Plus Meeting
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 25-26 Junior High And High School Sleepover At The McGuire's

Contributions

Last Week	\$4486	Avg YTD	\$5587
Russia	\$205	Avg YTD	\$267
Youth Min.	\$404	Avg YTD	\$327

Northland Church of Christ 4581 Cleveland Ave. Columbus, OH 43231 (614) 475-0161

NORTHLAND Messenger

July 30, 2000 Volume 9, Number 31

The Most Delicate Mission

THE MOST DELICATE MISSION ON EARTH

"The friend of the Bridegroom." John 3:29

Goodness and purity ought never to attract attention to themselves, they ought simply to be magnets to draw to Jesus Christ. If my holiness is not drawing towards Him, it is not holiness of the right order, but an influence that will awaken inordinate affection and lead souls away into side-eddies. A beautiful saint may be a hindrance if he does not present Jesus Christ but only what Christ has done for him. He will leave the impression – "What a fine character that man is!" That is not being a true friend of the Bridegroom; I am increasing all the time, He is not.

In order to maintain this friendship and loyalty to the Bridegroom, we have to be more careful of our moral and vital relationship to Him than of any other thing, even of obedience. Sometimes there is nothing to obey, the only thing to do is to maintain a vital connection with Jesus Christ, to see that nothing interferes with that. Only occasionally do we have to obey. When a crisis arises we have to find out what God's will is, but the greater part of the life is not conscious obedience but the maintenance of this relationship – the friend of the Bridegroom. Christian work may be a means of evading the soul's concentration on Jesus Christ. Instead of being friends of the Bridegroom, we may become amateur providences, and may work against Him whilst we use His weapons.

Oswald Chambers,
 From "My Utmost For His Highest"

"The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete."

John 3:29

Serving God

A WORD TO HUSBANDS

I want to share my heart with husbands today. So if you are a husband, this message is especially for you. (If you are a wife, you might want to read it anyway. Sometimes it helps to understand what our husbands might read.)

I talk with many women as I travel around the country, and lately I've been hearing the same lament over and over: "My husband is hitting me over the head with this submission thing."

The women who confide this bit of information are usually angry, sometimes bitter, and often depressed. They are not talking about physical assault and battery. They're talking about having submission held over them as a requirement.

"If you were a good Christian, you would submit to me."

"You don't submit, so you're a lousy wife."

"As the head of this house, I don't want you to work!" (Or, "I expect you to work.")

As I talk with these wives, it is evident that, unless the husbands can see the reactions they're causing and want to change, there is little hope of turning the situation around.

In Ephesians 5, we read: "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord... Husbands, love your wives" (vv.21-22, 25). Giving up one's rights for the sake of the other

person is a voluntary decision, made in obedience to the Lord, not to the spouse. But that's what marriage is all about – two people mutually agreeing to lay down their own rights to benefit the other.

The husband's role in obedience – loving his wife – is as voluntary as her submission. Just as she can't expect to have her way by stomping her foot and demanding, "Love me...or else!" so it is just as foolish for the husband to expect to make his point by brute force: "Submit to me...or else!"

Speaking as a woman, I can tell you that love is irresistible. Remember, women are relationship-oriented, and while your goal may be to have your home in order, your wife in submission, and your children in obedience, the way to achieve that goal is through relationship.

Try an experiment for just one week. Go home, kiss your wife, and compliment her on at least one thing. Before you go to sleep, tell her you love her. Bite your tongue off before criticizing her for any reason. I guarantee that after only seven days, you'll be amazed at the results! She may be slow to believe you're on the level, but if you keep it up, you'll find she is much more flexible and pliable. Relationship is everything to her. That's why God says, "Love her." He made women and knows how they will respond.

I hope you don't mind this little word of advice from this corner today. I'll write to your wife another day and remind her that you men are goal-oriented and need order in your lives. But until then, just love her.

Jan Silvius

Growth In Jesus

GIVE CAREFUL THOUGHT TO YOUR WAYS A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF HAGGAI

Week Seven: Avoiding Spiritual Defilement (Haggai 2:10-17)

On the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, in the second year of Darius, the word of the Lord came to the prophet Haggai: "This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'Ask the priests what the law says: If a person carries consecrated meat in the fold of his garment, and that fold touches some bread or stew, some wine, oil or other food, does it become consecrated?'" The priests answered, "No." Then Haggai said, "If a person defiled by contact with a dead body touches one of these things, does it become defiled?" "Yes," the priests replied, "it becomes defiled." Then Haggai said, "So it is with this people and this nation in my sight," declares the Lord. "Whatever they do and whatever they offer there is defiled. " "Now give careful thought to this from this day on - consider how things were before one stone was laid on another in the Lord's temple. When anyone came to a heap of twenty measures, there were only ten. When anyone went to a wine vat to draw fifty measures, there were only twenty. I struck all the work of your hands with blight, mildew and hail, yet you did not turn to me," declares the Lord. (Haggai 2:10-17)

It can be very easy to become discouraged or frustrated in our attempts to serve and worship God. When this happens, it is important to "give careful thought to our ways", as the prophet says. There is a common, but unfortunate, tendency to overlook the fact that the most common cause of spiritual disappointment or discouragement is our own spiritual defilement. That is, that we have allowed something to happen to our hearts,

minds, or souls that makes it difficult or impossible for God to use us.

In the Levitical priesthood of the Old Testament, this principle was impressed visibly on the Israelites through the system of sacrifice and ritual. They were constantly reminded - as Haggai does in this passage - of the many ways that they could defile themselves, that is, make themselves unclean and impure. It did not necessarily take an overt, deliberate sin to make a Jew unclean. Many of the defilements were mere acts of thoughtlessness or inattention. God wanted the people to be convicted of their identity as a chosen, holy nation, and wanted them to understand how important it was to remain focused on this identity, because it is so easy to become distracted, discouraged, and ultimately defiled by the pagan world. To fulfill their promise and purpose as a holy people, they first had to be clean and pure.

Likewise, it is easy for Christians to become spiritually defiled, and to do things inappropriate for a holy people. And, as in the Levitical system, we do not have to commit a deliberate sin to make ourselves impure or unclean. Simply absorbing the values and perspectives of the unbelieving world, blurring the distinction between the holy church of Jesus Christ and the lost world around it, not only makes it difficult for God to speak and act through us, it is also a very demoralizing way to live. Trying to have it both ways is frustrating to both our spirit and our flesh. This is the situation that Haggai describes to the people in this passage. God hopes that we can avoid this pitfall, and allow him to pour out real blessings upon us, as he describes in the verses that follow.

- Mark W. Garner

Family Information

Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is in need of the following: Paper grocery bags, cake mix, canned fruits, saltine crackers.

Special Contribution

Please mark your calendar for a special contribution on Sunday September 17th. This is **greatly needed** to catch up on past due bills and help with several maintenance needs. This would be a great time to make up if you are behind on what you committed at the start of the year. Please keep this need in your prayers. The Elders

Housing Help Needed

Peg Williams requests help for housing for her brother, Steven Bland and his wife and 2 children for a month or 2 while she locates other housing. The house she is living in now has plumbing problems (the water line needs to be replaced and the owner will not repair it). Therefore, she will be finding new housing that will allow the family to again live with her. If you are able to help in this situation, please let Peg know.

Teens Please Note

There will be a Hawaiian Lua at Lindsey Esteps House on Sunday August 13th, after group, at 7:00 p.m.

Services

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am
 Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am
 Sunday Evening 5:30 pm
 Wednesday Evening 7:00 pm

Elders: Wilbur Allen, Frank Chappell, Roy Estep, Gene Prince, Ray Thorne
Deacons: Brian Arnold, Tom Barnhardt, Joe Barozzini, John Bradley, Steve Carver, Lynn Champney, Darrell Estep, Jack Evans, Don Gillespie, Lou Lawrence, Jack Mauersberg, Beryl McMasters, Mark Morris, Charlie Yates

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August

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Contributions

Last Week	\$5836	Avg YTD	\$5595
Russia	\$290	Avg YTD	\$268
Youth Min.	\$316	Avg YTD	\$327

N O R T H L A N D Messenger

August 6, 2000 Volume 9, Number 32

The Steel Square

"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth."
 2 Timothy 2:15

Recently, while going through some of my father's belongings, I came across a book entitled, "Steel Square and its Practical Uses." Suddenly, my mind flashed back to the days of my youth. I could see my father standing at a job site, steel square in hand, laying out stairs, rafters, roof framing, hip and valley rafters, bevels for hips, valleys and jack rafters, calculating unequal pitches for roof, figuring joints for obtuse or acute angles, laying out braces, girts and trusses, and even drawing circles, or finding the center of a circle.

I used the square to measure and draw a straight line. Dad used it to solve almost every mathematical problem connected with a construction job.

We both had the same square. Dad knew how to use it; I didn't.

I thought of the Bible. Some know how to use it; some don't. For many it is merely a decorative touch on the coffee table, or a talisman to ward off evil. It's a book to be opened at random in a time of crisis, or perhaps consulted when death invades the home. Some who are ignorant and unstable take the words of the Bible which are hard to understand, and others which should be clear, and twist them to their own destruction. (2 Peter 3:16).

Those who understand the Bible find it to be the most profitable book in the world. It trains them in righteousness, and equips them for every good work.

A Christian workman needs to know how to use his tools. Paul emphasized it when he said, "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15).

John Gibson

Serving God

GRANDPA'S GLASSES

"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. Matthew 6:33-34

My mother's father worked as a carpenter. On this particular day, he was building some crates for the clothes his church was sending to some orphanage in China. On his way home, he reached into his shirt pocket to find his glasses, but they were gone. When he mentally replayed his earlier actions, he realized what happened; the glasses had slipped out of his pocket unnoticed and fallen into one of the crates, which he had nailed shut. His brand new glasses were heading for China!

The Great Depression was at its height and Grandpa had six children. He had spent \$20 for those glasses that very morning. He was upset by the thought of having to buy another pair. "It's not fair," he told God as he drove home in frustration. "I've been very faithful in giving of my time and money to your work, and now this."

Several months later, the director of the orphanage was on furlough in the United States. He wanted to visit all the churches that had supported him in China, so he came to speak one Sunday at my grandfather's

small church in Chicago. The missionary began by thanking the people for their faithfulness in supporting the orphanage.

"But most of all," he said, "I must thank you for the glasses you sent last year. You see, the Communists had just swept through the orphanage, destroying everything, including my glasses."

"I was desperate. Even if I had the money, there was simply no way of replacing those glasses. Along with not being able to see well, I experienced headaches every day, so my coworkers and I were much in prayer about this."

"Then your crates arrived. When my staff removed the covers, they found a pair of glasses lying on top." The missionary paused long enough to let his words sink in. Then, still gripped with the wonder of it all, he continued:

"Folks, when I tried on the glasses, it was as though they had been custom-made just for me! I want to thank you for being part of that."

The people listened, happy for the miraculous glasses. But the missionary surely must have confused their church with another, they thought. There were no glasses on their list of items to be sent overseas. But sitting quietly in the back, with tears streaming down his face, an ordinary carpenter realized the Master Carpenter had used him in an extraordinary way.

Verse A Week Club

Growth In Jesus

GIVE CAREFUL THOUGHT TO YOUR WAYS A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF HAGGAI

Week Eight: Receiving Spiritual Blessings (Haggai 2:18-19)

From this day on, from this twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, give careful thought to the day when the foundation of the Lord's temple was laid. Give careful thought: Is there yet any seed left in the barn? Until now, the vine and the fig tree, the pomegranate and the olive tree have not borne fruit. From this day on I will bless you. (Haggai 2:18-19)

In several key passages in Leviticus, Deuteronomy, and other Old Testament books, God describes in detail two paths on which his people can travel: the path of rebellion and selfishness, which leads to frustration and desolation, and the path of faithfulness and righteousness, which leads to contentment, joy and security. Here in Haggai, he does the same, for a new generation and a new era in the history of his people. Having reminded them of the fruitlessness of living for themselves (see previous verses), he now assures them that, from this point onward, he can resume blessing them, if only they will take advantage of this opportunity for a fresh start. The resumption of work on the temple can mean much more than the physical rebuilding itself - if they wish, it can be the start of a renewed and re-energized relationship with God.

When we read these kinds of promises, it is important to bear in mind their real significance. In no way do the Scriptures

promise us that there will be a direct, immediate correlation between our behavior - that is, whether we are "good" or "bad" - and the amount of worldly goodies we receive in return. While there are often natural connections between the two, and while God also does give good gifts to his people to show his love for them, it must be remembered that it is never God's highest priority to see us succeed in earthly terms. The most important blessings are spiritual, and this is true not only in heaven, but also in this life. The person who accumulates material goods, power, and other earthly treasure through sinful and selfish living will pay the price inside, in fear, guilt, loneliness, and a cold, hard heart. No matter what kind of phony facade such persons show to the world, they are suffering inside, because their souls are missing their God. Conversely, the person who sacrifices many things of worldly value can have in their place far more important commodities, such as faith, hope, security, purity, and the love of God. No matter how lacking the life of a faithful believer may appear to be by fleshly standards, the believer has spiritual treasure that cannot be measured on any worldly scale.

Haggai told the Jews that God was ready and willing to forget about their years of selfish and irrational living, if they were ready to seize the opportunity he offered them, through the temple rebuilding. So too, regardless of how long you or I have been struggling with selfish living, or with caving in to fleshly sin, all we need do to experience healing is to take the opportunity that has always been there, to repent, to allow the blood of Jesus to cover our sin completely, and to move forward, putting our best time and effort into the things God has called us to do.

- Mark W. Garner

Family Information

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The Elders

Teens Please Note

There will be a Hawaiian Lua at Lindsey Esteps House on Sunday August 13th, after group, at 7:00 p.m.

Thank You

Thank you for the donations of water and pop for the 13th Annual Golf Scramble. Your continued support is greatly appreciated. The Golf Scramble was a great success. We are able to continue to offer quality care for our nursing home residents and the proceeds from this golf scramble help. Again, thank you for being part of this. Willow Brook Christian Communities

Services

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am
Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am
Sunday Evening 5:30 pm
Wednesday Evening 7:00 pm

Elders: Wilbur Allen, Frank Chappell, Roy Estep, Gene Prince, Ray Thorne
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Evangelists: Mike Hipes, Tom Barnhardt, Bobby Graham

Northland Church of Christ 4581 Cleveland Ave. Columbus, OH 43231 (614) 475-0161

Calendar

August

- 14 16 And Over Work Day At Cedar Point 11:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. Then All Rides Are Free
16 50's Plus Meeting
18 All Teens Invited To Willow Brook Nursing Home 9:30 a.m. To Serve
19 Mentor Leaders Meeting At The Grahams Home At 8:00 p.m.
20 50's Plus "Eat Out Sunday"
22 Junior High And High School Trip To Wyandot Lake 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
25-26 Junior High And High School Sleepover At The McGuire's

New Address

Bill and Ruth have a new address:
5543 Everest Way, Columbus, Ohio, 43231.

Contributions

Last Week	\$6536	Avg YTD	\$5624
Russia	\$295	Avg YTD	\$269
Youth Min.	\$400	Avg YTD	\$329

NORTHLAND Messenger

Volume 9, Number 33

August 13, 2000

I Am The Boss

A boss was complaining in his staff meeting that he wasn't getting any respect. Later that morning he went to a local sign shop and bought a small sign that read, "I'm the Boss". He then taped it to his office door.

Later that day when he returned from lunch, he found that someone had taped a note to the sign that said, "Your wife called, she wants her sign back!"

Everyone likes to be the boss, to be in control, to be respected. That's the natural attitude of the world around us. But Jesus calls us to an attitude that is not very natural:

"You know that the rulers of the non-Jewish people love to show their power over the people. And their important leaders love to use all their authority. But it should not be that way among you. Whoever wants to become great among you must serve the rest of you like a servant. Whoever wants to become first among you must serve the rest of you like a slave. In the same way, the Son of Man did not come to be served. He came to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many people." (Matthew 20:25-28, NCV).

Concerned that everyone be aware that you're the boss? Be more concerned about what you can do to serve others (by the way, God wants His sign back!)

Alan Smith
(Boone, NC)

"Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Matthew 20:28

Serving God

I'M HAPPY FOR YOU!

One of the truest insights you can have into your own character revolves around the following declaration: I'm happy for you!

Politeness and good social form periodically dictate the statement. A colleague at work gets a promotion and raise. A friend announces his engagement. An acquaintance graduates from college, shows you her new car, or moves into a new house. Or you watch a total stranger win the big prize on "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?" what is the tactful response? I'm happy for you!

The trick isn't in saying it, but in genuinely meaning it. The person who says it and means it has a generous spirit. The person who says it and can't mean it is being squeezed in the vise of envy and jealousy. Which sort are you?

In the community of God, this is to be the operative rule: "Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn" (Romans 12:15). Compassion toward someone in trouble seems to be easier than authentic joy over another's good fortune. The former at least allows us to feel secure, if not superior.

If it ever feels good to you that someone else has crashed and burned, you have a covetous heart and a cruel spirit. Worry about yourself. And pray for God to give you the power to get outside your too-egocentric world of resentment.

A man was jealous of an associate a his firm who moved into a new house much larger than

his own. So he called a real estate agent, had his house listed for sale, and began searching for a nicer place. The very next day his eye was drawn to a listing that seemed to be everything he could want in a place. So he called his agent to schedule an appointment for him to see it. He got the shock of his life when the agent said, "Why that's your present house!"

We often have just what we need and simply can't recognize it. The task of keeping up, moving ahead, or achieving status creates envy. Envy creates the next round of cutthroat competition. And conflict destroys personal peace.

No less then the Apostle Paul admitted having to struggle against the sin of covetousness. Most of us are infected with the same spirit and have to struggle against envy and the competitive spirit it generates.

Pay attention this week to the good things you enjoy and the opportunities you have by virtue of the skills God has entrusted to you. Don't fall into the trap of comparing your situation with someone else's. Above all, when you learn of another's good fortune, tell him you're happy for him and mean it.

Rubel Shelly & the Woodmont Hills Church

*"Rejoice with those who rejoice;
mourn with those who mourn."*

Romans 12:15

Growth In Jesus

GIVE CAREFUL THOUGHT TO YOUR WAYS: A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF HAGGAI

Week Nine: Spiritual Leadership & Initiative (Haggai 2:20-23)

The word of the Lord came to Haggai a second time on the twenty-fourth day of the month: "Tell Zerubbabel governor of Judah that I will shake the heavens and the earth. I will overturn royal thrones and shatter the power of the foreign kingdoms. I will overthrow chariots and their drivers; horses and their riders will fall, each by the sword of his brother. "On that day," declares the Lord Almighty, "I will take you, my servant Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel," declares the Lord, "and I will make you like my signet ring, for I have chosen you," declares the Lord Almighty." (Haggai 2:20-23)

After challenging and encouraging all of the people of Israel, the book of Haggai closes with some special words to Zerubbabel, their leader. Though all the people would bear the responsibility for responding to the challenge God had issued, Zerubbabel had a special responsibility. It was particularly important for him to see clearly what God was doing, and it was also especially vital for him to embrace the role to which God called him, without doubt or hesitation. In the pagan world, leadership means authority, privilege, and rewards. But among God's people, leadership means responsibility, example, and devotion to God and his people.

The prophet thus addressed this concluding message to Zerubbabel personally, because of how important it was for Zerubbabel both to understand and to embrace what God was

doing. He gave the governor some extra encouragement, so that he could demonstrate the spiritual leadership and initiative God called for. In the body of believers, it is more important for leaders to set an example, through their faithfulness and devotion to the work of God, than it is for them to impress the rest of God's people with their talent and brilliance. Further, any abilities or skills that leaders have will only be put to a truly godly use if the leaders' hearts are devoted to God. Leaders should show that they are willing to sacrifice at least as much, and work at least as hard, as they call others to do.

Note also the particular things with which God encourages Zerubbabel. He first impresses upon him the magnitude of God's power, and the massive dimensions of the plans he has made for his people. He wants the governor to be fully convinced that the fulfillment of these plans and dreams depends on God's wisdom and might, not on human goodness. Then, he wants Zerubbabel to know that he has been chosen for a special purpose. He uses the image of a ruler's signet ring, a sign of authority, to let Zerubbabel know that as long as he faithfully acts as God calls him to, he shall have God's full power and authority behind him at all times. As we Christians work to fulfill the plans and ministries that God has prepared for us, we shall do well to remember these same points. We do not have enough power or knowledge to accomplish anything ourselves of eternal importance, but God has enough of both to use our humble lives to fulfill his own amazing and glorious plans. And he has graciously chosen us to be part of this process. As long as we allow his will and his wisdom to reign in our lives, we can be confident that his full authority and power are with us.

- Mark W. Garner

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Thank You

Thanks so much for the graduation gift. God has enriched my life by giving me the opportunity to finish my education. Also, He's blessed me by allowing me to be part of His loving family. Thanks again. Jane West

Think About It

Our Business is to forge through the waters of affliction (Is. 43:2). God's business is to keep the waters from overflowing us.

The only things that are improved by breaking are the hearts of sinners

Banner of Truth

Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 am
Sunday Worship Service	10:30 am
Sunday Evening	5:30 pm
Wednesday Evening	7:00 pm

Elders: Wilbur Allen, Frank Chappell, Roy Estep, Gene Prince, Ray Thorne
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Youth Minister: Bobby Graham
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Calendar

August

- 22 Junior High And High School Trip To Wyandot Lake 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
- 25 Movie night For The Teens At The Grahams Home

September

- 1-3 Summit 2000
- 3 Area-Wide Worship At Summit 2000
- 6 50's Plus Meeting
- 10 Fall Bible Classes Begin
- 15-16 Youth Leaders Retreat At Tree Haven
- 17 Teens Meet At Gales Home, 5:30 p.m.
- 17 50's Plus "Eat Out Sunday"
- 20 50's Plus Meeting

Summit Week

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Russia	\$250	Avg YTD	\$268	
Youth Min.	\$240	Avg YTD	\$327	

Northland Church of Christ 4581 Cleveland Ave. Columbus, OH 43231 (614) 475-0161

N O R T H L A N D Messenger

The Symbol Christianity

For the word of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 1 Corinthians 1:18

Every great country has a symbol to represent it. The bald eagle is recognized by all as the proud insignia of the United States of America. The hammer and sickle represents Soviet communism just as the scimitar represents Islam. These are all symbols of power and strength, all fitting symbols for these countries and ideologies.

What is the symbol of Christianity? Even though Jesus never told his followers to select a symbol, the defacto logo of Christianity is the cross. People wear it on their clothes, they have rings with the cross on it, we have it put practically everywhere.

This seems at the same time to be unbelievable and unavoidable. It's unbelievable because the cross is not a symbol of power or prestige. It is rather a symbol of shame. Why would a movement choose such a symbol. The cross meant an agonizingly painful and humiliating death. The cross was feared by all and respected by none. The cross was not a pretty symbol in the first century.

But what other symbol could have represented Christianity? The cross was at the center of everything that Jesus came to do. There is a painting by Holman Hunt of Jesus with just the shadow of the cross falling on him. This is such a powerful symbol, because Jesus did in fact live his whole life in the shadow of the cross.

You see, Jesus knew; He always knew. From the very beginning, He knew why it was that he was sent to earth. He knew why he was born - he was born to die. Think of the terrible burden that knowledge carried with it.

Jesus knew the exact instant of his death. Several times in the gospels, the writer tells us that Jesus dismissed a plot or attack against Him because, "He knew his time had not yet come." His whole life was lived as an inexorable march toward Golgotha.

That is why the cross has to be the symbol of Christianity.

Verse a Week Club

Volume 9, Number 34

August 20, 2000

Serving God

LET GOD TAKE OVER

Did you know the sculpture *David* by Michelangelo was actually begun by another artist? This is one of Michelangelo's most famous pieces, yet he was not originally commissioned to do the work. Some time after the original artist began the work, the marble cracked and the work came to a halt. No one was willing to carry on the work except Michelangelo. He was only twenty-six when he took up the project and had yet to established himself as a master. Through his skill, Michelangelo completed *David* over a period of about three years. This sculpture, completed by a little known artist, became the symbol of Florence and was originally placed in front of the town hall. Today it stands alone in a room specially constructed for the statue in the Florence Academy.

Doesn't this parallel our Christian lives? We go on day after day trying to get ourselves right. Sometimes we turn to the self-help sections or listen to the "insightful" advice of Dear Abby, Ann Landers and Oprah. There is so much wisdom and knowledge around us, someone has to be right. We apply all the worldly wisdom only to find we still have cracks. The harder we try to fix things, the bigger the cracks become. But we can never become a masterpiece until a master takes over. In Jeremiah 18, the Lord told Jeremiah to go to the potter's house. As Jeremiah was observing the potter, he noticed the potter was not pleased with his work. From the same lump of clay the potter began again until he made the piece exactly the way he wanted it. The Lord used this to demonstrate how he was molding Israel.

Sometimes it is so hard for me to let go of control and give myself over to God. It is not that I question God's ability. I know he can mold me into whatever he wants if I allow him to. That is what scares me. I want to be everything the Lord wants me to be, but I am not willing to make the necessary sacrifices. "Letting Go and Letting God" is not as easy as it sounds. Does it really matter if I have a few small tiny cracks? The problem with small cracks is they grow bigger. The more I resist, the worse my condition becomes. If I choose to follow what I think is best, I will continue to fail. It is only when I really do put my total life in the hands of the Lord that I become what the Lord intended me to be. How can I love if I don't let the love of God live in me? How can I forgive if I don't let the Lord humble me? Admitting my faults and saying, "I'm sorry" can be so hard. But this is exactly why I need to let the Lord take over. I may be able to patch up the cracks for a time, but the Lord can repair them. He is not just a master, he is the Master and I, all of us, become Masterpieces. I may need to be completely remolded, but the end result will be an image made according to his desire; one that has been made worthy to live in house forever more.

In Galatians 5:7 Paul asks, "You were running so well; who hindered you from obeying the truth?" Later, in verse 16 he writes, "But I say, walk by the spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh." Only when we allow the Lord to take over can we be made in the image of his desire.

Richard Burch
(Temple City, CA)

Growth In Jesus

GIVE CAREFUL THOUGHT TO YOUR WAYS: A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF HAGGAI

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- Mark W. Garner

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The Elders

Bring Your Neighbor Day

We will have a Lasagna Potluck following "Bring Your Neighbor Day" services on Sunday, September 10th. Sign up for bringing a lasagna dish or a dessert on the lists posted in the foyer. Bread, salad, and drinks will be provided. If you would like to help serve in this event, please see Lynn Champney or Will Bickley.

Wonderful Quotes

If you feel far away from God, guess who moved.

We can never really go where God is not, and where He is, all is well.

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The Tarpits

"For what will a man be profited, if he gains the whole world, and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" Matthew 16:26

The La Brea tarpits in Los Angeles have lured thousands of unsuspecting animals to their deaths. These treacherous pits were formed when deep deposits of crude oil seeped up to the earth's surface through cracks and collected in natural basins. In time, the oil evaporated, leaving puddles of asphalt. Summer heat warmed the asphalt into a thick, gummy liquid, which was often hidden by dust and leaves. Pools of rain water accumulated, luring large plant-eating animals such as bison, horses and ground sloths to quench their thirst. Unaware, these animals walked into the pit and were trapped.

The trapped animals became easy prey of the meat-eating saber-toothed cats and grisly wolves who attacked the struggling animals, only to become victims of the treacherous sludge themselves. The scavengers – the vultures and condors – were the pit's final victims.

In the same way the world treacherously deceives, captures and destroys the unsuspecting and the undiscerning. Like the pit covered with dirt, leaves and a pool of water, the world offers the promise of relief for mankind's deep thirst for spiritual meaning and personal fulfillment. And, like the pit, it destroys those who are trapped without rescue.

Be careful where your walk takes you!

Verse A Week Club

N O R T H L A N D
Messenger

Volume 9, Number 35

August 27, 2000

Serving God

THE GARAGE SALE GOD

There's nothing like a good garage sale. One can usually find a virtual cornucopia of useful items: ceramic knick-knacks, furniture, children's clothes and toys, bakeware - among other things - a bargain hunters dream. On the other hand there are always items which seem downright useless, such as the box of junk for 50¢, a metal tray so covered in grime you can't tell if it's actually a tray or not, a picture painted on black velvet - you get the idea. They're the bits and pieces, which are looked at and picked over, and we wonder why these people are trying to sell them at all. I know I've done that. But what if God were at the garage sale?

God at a garage sale? I know, I know. That sounds kind of strange. After all, we picture God on His throne in Heaven, in all his glory on Mount Sinai, on a cross over two thousand years ago, but we never imagine the Lord of Creation wandering around twenty-first century America looking through junk at a garage sale. But He does do that. He's always done that. Not necessarily in twenty-first century America, but you can be sure He has always found uses for the seemingly useless.

Take Gideon for example. A lot of junk there. Although an Israelite, he worshipped Baal, along with the rest of his family. His clan was weak and he himself was not the most popular. When an angel appeared to him and called him a mighty warrior he did the B.C. version of "Who? Me?". He was so fearful of retribution, he tore down his father's Baal/Asherah worship center in the middle of the night rather than the middle of the day and asked God to wash and dry a piece of fleece. Looks like this box of junk isn't even worth 50¢. But God sifted through all that.. He set aside the useless parts in Gideon's "box" and found the

hidden treasure: a mighty warrior who set his people free from their enemy's grip.

And Jacob. Given a name meaning "deceiver" he lived up to it. He tricked just about everybody. Esau out of his birthright, his father to get Esau's birthright and his uncle to get the best of his flocks and make a break for it. So many dirty little lies it seems hard to find anything of value underneath. But God saw through the grime. He cleaned and buffed him and discovered a tray made of pure silver. Jacob became the patriarch of the twelve tribes of Israel and his name is listed in the Hebrews Hall of Fame (otherwise known as Hebrews 11).

And who can forget Peter? A big, burley fisherman with foot-in-mouth syndrome. He rebuked Jesus, fell asleep during one of his best friend's darkest hours, sliced and diced the high priest's servant, swore eternal allegiance to Christ then denied him not once but three times - well you get the picture. But while many may have focused on the picture, God saw a frame worth keeping. And on the day of Pentecost He filled that frame with a priceless piece of celestial art called the Holy Spirit. And Peter lived up to his name. He was the rock upon which Christ built His church. And Hades has not overcome it.

What the world throws out God keeps. He buys the boxes of junk, the trays covered with grime and enough velvet paintings to start a museum while the world watches Him as he gets into his car. They laugh and think they've made a profit off of some old fool. Then, a month or so later, they catch a glimpse of this same "fool" on Antiques Roadshow. He is with a world-renowned antique dealer with the stuff He bought from them. And when He is asked where he found such priceless items He smiles pleasantly and says, "Oh, I found them at a garage sale."

- Jennifer Cvelbar

Growth In Jesus

SING TO THE LORD A NEW SONG A STUDY OF PSALM 96

Week Two The "New Song" Theme (Psalm 96:1-2)

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. (Psalm 96:1-2)

The theme of a "new song" is a common one in the Psalms. Besides the Psalm that we are studying, it is also an important concept in Psalms 33, 40, 98, 144, and 149. It is thus important to understand what we are meant to understand when these psalmists tell us about a "new song". In all of these references, the writers are helping us to realize that giving genuine praise to God is always a "new song", in that to do so always involves an important departure from the natural, fleshly way that we all have of looking at ourselves, our lives, and the world around us. These verses are thus calling us to make a fundamental adjustment in our perspective, so that we do not merely offer God a phony praise, consisting of meaningless platitudes, but rather praise from the heart, communicating our real feelings about him.

Even for "religious" persons, it is a breakthrough to take one's eyes off of oneself, and off of this world and its needs and problems, long enough to develop a focus on God himself. Even most persons who believe in God, who accept his authority, and who make an honest, diligent effort to live by his Word and will, still struggle with looking at things from a worldly viewpoint. But if we can change our perspective, we can then lift

our minds and hearts above the imprisonment of our fleshly bodies and lives.

Note that verse one calls for all of the earth to sing praise to God. Everyone who has ever lived has been given ample reasons to believe in God, has been given reasons to seek him and learn his will, and has seen God's miraculous hand at work in many ways, even if most persons are blind to his ways. Praising God is not merely a pastime available to those who simply choose to live a religious life, it is not the responsibility only of those who have received special privileges or blessing. Praising God is a responsibility and blessing in which we all share.

Notice also that verse two gives us an important insight into developing a new attitude. In calling us to "proclaim his salvation", the psalmist gives us both a motivation for praise and something to praise God for. Unless we always keep our eternal destiny, our hope of eternal salvation, in the forefront of our minds, we shall always find it a struggle to adopt godly perspectives and thoughts. If we're still stuck on trying to get the same silly, pointless things out of life that the pagans crave, we should not be surprised if we feel unfulfilled by Christianity, because, as James 1:5-8 says, that is double-minded and unstable. To see God more clearly, to see his hand at work in the many ways we often miss, it is necessary to take time to clear our minds of everything short term, and to think about the over-riding importance of the eternal fate of our souls and the souls of others.

- Mark W. Garner

Family Information

Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is in need of the following: Paper grocery bags, cake mix, pancake mix, syrup, jelly, saltine crackers.

Special Contribution

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The Elders

Bring Your Neighbor Day

We will have a Lasagna Potluck following "Bring Your Neighbor Day" services on Sunday, September 10th. Sign up for bringing a lasagna dish or a dessert on the lists posted in the foyer. Bread, salad, and drinks will be provided. If you would like to help serve in this event, please see Lynn Champney or Will Bickley.

Guest Speaker

Andy Baker, Vice President of Development for World Christian Broadcasting will be speaking on Sunday morning, September 17.

Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 am
Sunday Worship Service	10:30 am
Sunday Evening	5:30 pm
Wednesday Evening	7:00 pm

Elders: Wilbur Allen, Frank Chappell, Roy Estep, Gene Prince, Ray Thorne
Deacons: Brian Arnold, Tom Barnhardt, Joe Barozzini, John Bradley, Steve Carver, Lynn Champney, Darrell Estep, Jack Evans, Don Gillespie, Lou Lawrence, Jack Mauersberg, Beryl McMasters, Mark Morris, Charlie Yates
Youth Minister: Bobby Graham
Evangelists: Mike Hipes, Tom Barnhardt

Northland Church of Christ 4581 Cleveland Ave. Columbus, OH 43231 (614) 475-0161

Calendar

September

- 1-3 Summit 2000
- 3 Area-Wide Worship At Summit 2000
- 6 50's Plus Meeting
- 10 Fall Bible Classes Begin
- 10 Bring Your Neighbor Day, Lasagna Potluck
- 15-16 Youth Leaders Retreat At Tree Haven
- 17 Teens Meet At Gales Home, 5:30 p.m.
- 17 50's Plus "Eat Out Sunday"
- 20 50's Plus Meeting
- 20 See You At The Pole 7:00 a.m.

Sympathy

We want to express our sympathy to Bailey Barton and family at the death of Sue. The funeral was Monday. Bailey's address is on the bulletin board.

Contributions

	Last Week	\$4771	Avg YTD	\$5367
Russia	\$239		Avg YTD	\$266
Youth Min.	\$263		Avg YTD	\$324

N O R T H L A N D Messenger

September 3, 2000 Volume 9, Number 36

My Feathered Friend

A LESSON FROM MY FEATHERED FRIEND

One recent morning, we looked out our window and saw too many robins to count. It was one of those extraordinary beautiful days in January...a gorgeous day with a slight hint of spring.

I'd like to think the robins recognized the blessings that morning, but I do know they weren't expecting our high window panes. The reflection of the sunlight on our windows seemed to blind their path. Periodically throughout the morning, we heard "thuds" as they flew right into the windows. Stunned, the robins fell to the ground. After a few minutes, they regained their perspective and went on with life.

I find myself like the robins sometimes. If I neglect my quiet time with the Lord, I hit invisible "panes." Starting the day with the Lord makes my day much better. It is there that I seek direction and guidance. It is there that I ask for wisdom to make right decisions. It is there that I seek to guard my speech, and it is there that I express my gratitude and praise to a loving God. I am so thankful that He is with me even when I am "stunned" by invisible panes of life. It is then that Jesus comes on the scene, because with Him, things are subject to change. He is mindful of His children.

You may be facing something that appears to be hopeless. You may feel there is no place to turn...you have reached the end of your rope. Not so, dear reader. Take heart! All things are possible with God.

Joan Clayton
Portales, NM

Serving God

WHY DO CHRISTIANS FAIL AT SPIRITUAL WARFARE?

(Part One)

As I walk with the Lord, and as I do battle with the enemy of our souls, I can't help but wonder why it is that we are not more effective in our struggle. The Scriptures promise us victory over Satan and all his demons. So I ask myself this very pointed question: "What am I doing wrong that I cannot seem to experience this promised victory?"

I have come to the conclusion that there are at least four major reasons why Christians, myself included, do not experience more of the victory over Satan.

The first reason is **hidden sin** in the life of the believer. Today, as never before, we are so infected with the idea of personal rights that we have come to believe that we have a right to certain things. That even goes so far as to include private sin. After all, we reason, what I am doing is private, it is pleasurable, and it doesn't hurt anyone else.

What we fail to understand is that we have no rights of our own outside of Jesus Christ, except for eternal damnation. We earned that right, we were born to it, and it is ours without question. To keep some hidden sin, whether it be bitterness toward a fellow Christian or a secret habit, is a slap in the face for Jesus Christ.

Yet almost every Christian I have ever met will, in some moment of brutal honesty, admit that they have a private "cherished" sin they refuse to give up. For some it is a habit of gossip; for others it is a love affair with alcohol; for some it is a bondage to tobacco; while others will readily and almost proudly state that they see nothing wrong with

buying lottery tickets. Dare we play these games with an eternal God and still preach a doctrine of sanctification?

This was the same problem that Jesus addressed in His day. He called it *"the leaven of the Pharisees."* What we have failed to see is that it takes a very little yeast to affect the whole batch.

Every act done in secret will one day be declared in the open. The anger we feel against another Christian will one day be announced in public; the gossip we have whispered in the back pew will one day be known to all; the sneak peak at pornography in the magazine store when we thought nobody was looking will one day be declared "from the housetops."

All sin, whether hidden or open, is rebellion against God. It grieves the Holy Spirit, and cuts off communion with God. We cannot know the mind of Christ when we are in rebellion. Ephesians 4:30 says, *"And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption."* How can we have communion with God when we are in rebellion against Him?

If we claim to be "sanctified" and still feel bitterness toward others John says we are liars, and we make God a liar (1 John 1:6-10). It is not possible to be "sanctified" and have a secret sin addiction.

Jesus stands at the door (Revelation 3:20-22) of the heart of every Christian. *"Here I am! I stand at the door, and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me. To him who overcomes I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne."* Let us keep in mind that this passage was written to the church, not to unbelievers. Let us be honest in our exegesis. We, the Christians, have shut Jesus out when we live in rebellion and harbor secret sin. Bert Harkness

Growth In Jesus

SING TO THE LORD A NEW SONG A STUDY OF PSALM 96

Week Three

God is Worthy of Praise (Psalm 96:3-4)

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples. For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods (Psalm 96:3-4)

These verses emphasize a point already made in the opening verse of the Psalm. It is all peoples, all nations, all cultures, who owe God a debt of praise for his creation, his love, and his care for the world. There is only one living God, and regardless of anyone's personal circumstances, cultural or geographical background, or family upbringing, we all have good reason to praise and honor our God.

As so many other Scriptures remind us, God's divine qualities and his glorious power are evident to all persons everywhere, who have any powers of perception whatsoever. We have no real excuse for failing to see God, other than our pre-occupation with the fleshly and worldly. We do not need God to do anything unique or specific for us in order to be able to see who he is. Now, we are used to accepting this principle as it applies to unbelievers - as the book of Romans tells us, God is fair in holding all of humanity accountable to him, because it is so obvious to anyone who looks at the universe with discernment that there is a living God whom we all ought to seek. It is only the wilfully blind who cannot see him - and it is

only the haze of our own sin that keeps believers from seeing him more clearly.

So, can we accept the equally challenging implications for Christians? The same irrefutable evidence that convicts unbelievers and pagans of the need to humble themselves and turn to the Lord also convicts believers that they never have any excuse for turning away from God, for wandering from the truth, or for claiming that God has not given any of us reasons more than sufficient to maintain a deep faith in him. Believers too must wrestle with the call to leave behind the temptations and distractions of the world, to "sing a new song".

It is a grave disservice to God, and a dangerous risk to one's soul, when a Christian begins to view God or the church solely as means to attain desired blessings in this world. It is sad and disturbing when a believer sits in judgment on the church, evaluating whether it meets his or her needs, whether it meets his or her expectations, or whether it offers the type of assistance, opportunity, and entertainment that a particular individual feels a church ought to have. As unpleasant as it may be to our flesh, we have got to accept once and for all that it's not about us, and it's not even about the church, as a human organization. It's all about God, a great God, a glorious God, a God who deserves one hundred percent of our attention, our devotion, and our praise.

- Mark W. Garner

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Bring Your Neighbor Day

We will have a Lasagna Potluck following "Bring Your Neighbor Day" services today.

Guest Speaker

Andy Baker, Vice President of Development for World Christian Broadcasting will be speaking on Sunday morning, September 17.

Weigh Down workshop

There will be an orientation meeting Tuesday, September 19th at 7:00 p.m. for anyone interested in coming to the "Weigh Down Workshop". If you are unable to attend this meeting, but would like to know more about it, please call Leona Hopkins at 885-0857.

Teens Please Note!

The Youth group will not be going to the Gales on the 17th, it has been rescheduled for October 21st. See You At the Pole Sept 20th.

Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 am
Sunday Worship Service	10:30 am
Sunday Evening	5:30 pm
Wednesday Evening	7:00 pm

Elders: Wilbur Allen, Frank Chappell, Roy Estep, Gene Prince, Ray Thorne
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September

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Please Note !!

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Contributions

Last Week	\$3839	Avg YTD	\$5519
Russia	\$125	Avg YTD	\$262
Youth Min.	\$130	Avg YTD	\$319

Northland Church of Christ 4581 Cleveland Ave. Columbus, OH 43231 (614) 475-0161

NORTHLAND Messenger

Volume 9, Number 37

September 10, 2000

The Time Of Relapse

"Will ye also go away?" John 6:67.

A penetrating question. Our Lord's words come home most when He talks in the most simple way. We know Who Jesus is, but in spite of that He says – "Will ye also go away?" We have to maintain a venturing attitude toward Him all the time.

"From that time many of His disciples went back, and walked no more with Him." They went back from walking with Jesus, not into sin, but they relapsed. Many today are spending and being spent in work for Jesus Christ, but they do not walk with Him. The one thing God keeps us to steadily is that we may be one with Jesus Christ. After sanctification the discipline of our spiritual life is along this line. If God gives a clear and emphatic realization to your soul of what He wants, do not try to keep yourself in that relationship by any particular method, but live a natural life of absolute dependence on Jesus Christ. Never try to live the life with God on any other line than God's line, and that line is absolute devotion to Him. The certainty that I do not know – that is the secret of going with Jesus.

Peter only saw in Jesus someone to minister salvation to him and to the world. Our Lord wants us to be yoke-fellows with Him.

In John 6:70, Jesus answers the great lack in Peter. We cannot answer for others.

Oswald Chambers

"You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve.

John 6:67

Serving God

WHY DO CHRISTIANS FAIL AT SPIRITUAL WARFARE?

(Part Two)

The second reason for our lack of spiritual victory is a **fear of confrontation**. We have become afraid of people. We worry about what they will think of us. We even get concerned about what strangers will say about us. This is a form of pride. We are afraid of being "real" people. We want to live up to images and expectations. There is a dichotomy between what we want to be versus what we really are, and we are not willing to be honest with God nor ourselves. In reality, we are giving in to a new form of bondage to people. We are giving them power over us; power that rightly belongs to God alone. We are not willing to confront ourselves, nor each other.

It is high time we stopped being afraid of people, as Jesus said (Luke 12:4). The fear of people really involves the politics of power. We have a fear of losing control of others, or of the situation, or of an organization. We want control, and that is pride. We fail to trust God to really do what He says in His word that He will do. We seek to maintain control because we do not really trust God enough to let Him have control.

James Dobson refers to "tough love" as a love that confronts even if it means pain. God specializes in tough love, or He would not have created us in the beginning – or do we not believe that God knew the cost of a relationship with His creation in the far reaches of eternity past?

Jesus used confrontation with great effect. As we read the Gospel accounts of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, we can't help but be impressed with the great effectiveness with which Jesus used confrontation when dealing with the scribes and Pharisees. Yes, it cost Jesus His life, and that is where our fear comes in. We have lost our focus on the eternal. Jesus never lost that focus and so never faltered when He confronted sin (Heb. 12:1-6).

A third reason why Christians fail at spiritual warfare is a

lack of knowledge. We are not fully conversant with God's Word. There is a general failure to recognize God's standard of holiness and purity. This usually is willful ignorance (2 Pet. 3:3-11). We simply don't want to know, because we somehow believe that if we don't know something, we won't have to deal with it. It's almost as if we have bought the old saying that "what you don't know can't hurt you." It is a lie; it can hurt us.

We have God's Word describing the spiritual battle that is set before us, but we refuse to believe that we have an enemy, or that he is able to hurt us, or that he appears in so many appealing disguises. This is Satan's best possible advantage. We would rather believe that the enemy is the brother or sister on the opposite side of a question under discussion, rather than the one who fills our own hearts with bitterness toward fellow believers with whom we disagree. We attack our spouses, our neighbors, and even our God because we fail to recognize the enemy for who he really is. This makes us unwitting servants of the enemy.

We need to know the enemy's tactics. Paul says we need not be ignorant of Satan's schemes (2 Cor. 2:10, 11). Through His Word, God informs us of the enemy, his devices, and his tactics – if we would only listen and learn.

Finally, we have failed to **know our spiritual weapons and our defenses**. We have tried to use the wrong weapons, not realizing that the right ones are not of this world (Eph. 6:10-18). We have attempted to use our own authority, talents, abilities, etc., instead of recognizing that the battle is the Lord's, and we must use the weapons that God provides – His blood and His Word.

There has been a failure to protect ourselves under the blood of Jesus. "Our brethren," says Revelation 12:10, 11, "overcame (Satan) by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death."

There is no other covering that can protect us from the onslaught of the enemy. Our faith in the blood of the Lamb is the only effective means for our protection and deliverance.

Bert Harkness, from *Evangelical Visitor*

Growth In Jesus

SING TO THE LORD A NEW SONG A STUDY OF PSALM 96

Week Four: A True God, A Living God (Psalm 96:5-6)

For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.

Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and glory are in his sanctuary. (Psalm 96:5-6)

Once again, the psalmist makes a point that gets at the heart of what it means to "sing a new song", to praise God in a genuine way. The realization that there truly is a living God, a being on a scale and dimension far greater than we can comprehend, is a realization as difficult to attain as it is powerful to the believer who finally comes to grips with it. There is a great difference between the surface acknowledgment that "there is a God" and a real appreciation for the implications to the truth that a living God created and rules our entire universe.

Once again, we could entertain ourselves by detailing at length how foolish it is for atheists and pagans to expect to find ultimate truth or fulfillment outside of God. Anyone who expects to find meaning in mere earthly values such as material objects, fame, popularity, and the like, is clearly misguided and benighted. It is only open to question whether we should pity such persons for the

miserable inside them, or whether we should reprove them for the disservice they thus do to God and to those around them.

But do we ever stop to ask ourselves to consider how foolish and unnecessary it is for Christians ever to live in uncertainty, doubt, and despair? Do we ever stop to think about the countless reminders God gives us to convince us that he lives and is there for us? The same incredible creation that convicts atheists of the errors in their thinking also convicts us of the need to pull our eyes off of ourselves, and off of the physical world around us, so that we can sing a new song of undying faith and devotion to God.

As the sixth verse tells us, God's splendor, majesty, strength, and glory are always on display in the world around us. There is never a time when we do not have hundreds of proofs of God right in front of our faces. So, when we look at the marvel of creation, what do we see? Do we see a set of convenient arguments to use against silly atheists and agnostics? Do we try to make note of interesting scientific facts that may come in handy in a debate someday? Or do we drop to our knees in awe of it all, in awe of the fact that there really is a living God who created it all and gave life to us all? If we cannot do this, we are not much better than the atheist who is blinded by his own pride. But if we can do this, it will open a door to a much deeper and more satisfying relationship with God, and will enable us to sing a truly new song in our hearts.

- Mark W. Garner

Family Information

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See You At The Pole

See You At The Pole is Wednesday Sept. 20th beginning at 7:00 a.m. at the flagpole outside of every middle and high school in Columbus and across the nation. Teens will gather to pray for their schools, themselves and their friends. Please plan to attend. Pray for God to work powerfully in our schools this year.

Congratulations

Edwin and Fostina had a baby girl on Friday September 8th.
Her name is Chukwunazaeketele Mary Ejikeme

Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 am
Sunday Worship Service	10:30 am
Sunday Evening	5:30 pm
Wednesday Evening	7:00 pm

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Youth Minister: Bobby Graham
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Calendar

September

17	Special Contribution Day
17	Fall Bible Classes Begin
17	50's Plus "Eat Out Sunday"
20	50's Plus Meeting
20	"See You At The Pole"
21	Teens T.N.T. 8:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
28	Teens T.N.T. 8:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

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Russia	\$330	Avg YTD	\$264
Youth Min.	\$475	Avg YTD	\$323

Northland Church of Christ 4581 Cleveland Ave. Columbus, OH 43231 (614) 475-0161

Value Unrealized

For forty years, the inconspicuous box stood with a pile of other discards awaiting disposal in a storage room at Baker University. Then a Bible collector, John McGraw, was invited by the librarian to come and look over some religious material there in the discard pile. He discovered two rare and priceless Bibles in the box.

One of the Bibles was published in Somerset, Pennsylvania, in 1813. It has a German text and had been printed on a press that was carried piece by piece on horseback to Pennsylvania. The other bible was a lightly modified translation by lexicographer Noah Webster, who substituted more up-to-date English for words used in King James' day. It is from the first and only edition printed by Webster.

One can't help wondering at the person who put these priceless Bibles in the discard box and did not realize their value. How could anyone throw away a valuable Bible? But perhaps many of us could ask that same question of ourselves. In a land where we have an overabundance of Bibles, we tend to take them for granted. We may lay them aside and not read them for days. Yet all around the world today, thousands of people can be found who would give anything if they could just have a translation of the Bible in their own language!

Muriel Larson
(Greenville, SC)

NORTHLAND
 Messenger

Volume 9, Number 38

September 17, 2000

Serving God

FIGHTING THE BATTLE ALONE

The story is told of an old lady who had moved to the United States from Europe when she was a child, but now she wanted to officially become a citizen of this country. After months of going through all the necessary red tape, she was finally ready to take the required oath.

"Raise your right hand, please."

She raised her right hand.

"Do you swear to defend the Constitution of the United States against all its enemies, domestic or foreign?" was the first question.

The little old lady's face paled and her voice trembled as she asked in a small voice, "Uhh...all by myself?"

I know the feeling. When I read what the apostle Paul had to say about the great spiritual battle going on, I tremble a bit. Paul said,

"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."
(Eph. 6:12).

The thoughts of waging such a battle alone is enough to cause even the most stout-hearted to tremble. But we don't go into battle alone! We go forth as a part of the army of God, led by the Son of God in all his glory, and side by side with every brother and sister in Christ on the face of this earth. The battle is still a difficult one. There will be many casualties along the way. But, thank God, we do not fight it alone!

Alan Smith
(Boone, NC)

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

Ephesians 6:12

Growth In Jesus

SING TO THE LORD A NEW SONG A STUDY OF PSALM 96

Week Five

"Ascribe to the Lord" (Psalm 96:7-9)

Ascribe to the Lord, O families of nations, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts. Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth.

Another way of saying "ascribe to" would be simply, "give credit for". These verses call us to do no more and no less than that - they call us to give God full credit for his amazing achievements and his unique and magnificent qualities. We all know what it is like to be unappreciated, to accomplish something and have no one notice, to give to others who are unaware of what we have done. Although God never forces anyone to praise or thank him, he certainly deserves for us to stop and consider the things he has done, and the God he is. In both of these respects, we are most fortunate and blessed, and we ought to take the time to express this from our hearts to our God.

Although most of us are more than willing, at least on the surface, to state that God is glorious, powerful, and all-knowing, do these facts really affect the ways we think and act. Here is the difference between the thanks God wants and the thanks humans are

usually seeking. The greatest "thank you" we can send God is in the way we live out in our lives the truths he has taught us. Do we truly credit God in our hearts with the qualities we say he has? If so, it will be evident in the peace and joy we are able to have in the face of adversity. It will show in our ability to resist the shabby temptations of a world filled with sin, decay, and death. It will show in the great respect and reverence we show to his Word and will, both in our lives and in others'. By thus praising God with our lives, we are singing a new song that he enjoys.

Even if we have the right doctrine, and even if we have a zeal for righteousness, unless we take up the challenge of focusing everything in our lives on God himself, then we are just playing church. Christianity is not a self-help course, it is not a salesmanship contest, it is not a means of proving who knows the most, it is not a means of proving who is the best person, it is not a search for the types of worship and other activities that will prove the most popular among humans looking for fleshly satisfaction. Genuine Christianity focuses on praising God with our lips, our lives, our hearts, and our minds. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due him - let your life reflect your belief that there truly is a living God who loves us all and who will judge us all.

- Mark W. Garner

Family Information

Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is in need of the following:
Paper grocery bags, beef stew, pancake syrup.

Northlands Pictorial Directory

This is the LAST WEEK you will be able to sign up for our new pictorial directory. If you still have not reserved your time for photography, please do so IMMEDIATELY after the services are over. We want our pictorial directory to include every one in the church. It simply won't be complete without YOU!

Please make sure you have checked all your family information when you sign-up. We need your current address, current phone number, your e-mail address and your spouse's e-mail address, make sure all your children are listed and the spelling is correct. This information will be sent to Olan Mills and will be printed in the back of the directory. We are currently using an old database and are sure that a lot of the information is wrong. Do not assume we have the correct info!!!!

Teens

Money is due for Fallfest on Sunday October 1st. The Perrysburg youth rally is not at the end of September as written on the youth calendar, it is October 28th. Remember the bonfire at the Gale's home on October 21st.

Services

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Calendar

September

28 Teens T.N.T. 8:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

October

4 50'S Plus Meeting
5-7 Northland Pictorial Directory Photography Days
6-8 Fallfest (Niagara Falls, New York)
13-15 Marriage Retreat
18 50'S Plus Meeting
15 50's Plus "Eat Out Sunday"
21 Saturday Fun Day At The Gale's Home 6:30 p.m.-10:00 p.m.
28 Perrysburg Youth Rally
29 5th Sunday Activity

Please Note !!

Our church is going to publish a new pictorial directory using the Olan Mills Video Image Proofing System. Reserve an appointment time today after services in the foyer. Each family photographed will receive a complimentary directory and a free 8" x 10" Custom Color Portrait from Olan Mills. This will be your last chance to sign up and get your picture in!!

Contributions

Last Week	\$8909	Avg YTD	\$5648
Russia	\$386	Avg YTD	\$267
Youth Min.	\$583	Avg YTD	\$330

Northland Church of Christ 4581 Cleveland Ave. Columbus, OH 43231 (614) 475-0161

The Other Side

It was one of the funniest spectacles in my recent memory. A pig-tailed little girl was holding her mother's hand as her mom literally pulled her across the crosswalk.

The mother was intent on navigating the crossing safely, while the little girl's focus was on the chocolate-covered donut in her other hand. The child's head and pigtails bobbed up and down with each step, and with each step her hand bounced in the opposite direction.

Adding to the picture was the sight of her hand stabbing at an open mouth, but all her efforts could accomplish was a dark series of tattoos near the expanded opening. Meanwhile, the mother periodically pulled her child along. The girl failed to accomplish her task of eating the donut until she reached the other side.

The song says, "He's got the whole world in His hand." So true. God is leading us through the parted-waters of life to eternal safety, if we will only submit to His grasp and His tug. He knows we are tempted to reach out and grab at the world's delicacies. He also knows, if we manage to catch any, we will try for a quick mouthful on the fly. It is at that time that those who belong to Him feel His determined tug pulling them along.

The Lord must cringe when He sees the pitiful bobbing of our heads and hands as we try earnestly to accomplish what the Lord just as earnestly seeks to prevent. You see, He knows the only treats we need are all on the other side!

John Gillmartin

N O R T H L A N D
Messenger

September 24, 2000 Volume 9, Number 39

Serving God

WHEN PRAYER DOESN'T SEEM TO HELP

I've been praying for a particular person for several years. The more intense my prayers, the more aloof and untouchable this individual seems to become. I know that God has given me a burden to pray specifically and constantly for this dear soul, but I just can't see any results.

Have you ever wondered if the Lord really understands what it's like to pray and pray and yet see nothing happening for a long period of time? Or even worse, have you prayed and seen that individual go in the opposite direction?

That thought has come to me from time to time, but I never got past the thinking stage until I read these words by Amy Carmichael in her devotional book, *Edges of His Way*: "Our Lord Jesus prayed for Peter that his faith might not fail, and within a few hours his faith did fail.

"The more we think of those last hours of our Lord just before Calvary, the more we see every kind of trial compressed into them. It was not only that His cup was filled to overflowing with suffering, but that every variety of suffering was there. It is easy to escape from the intolerable sense of such suffering by saying, 'He was God'; for example, where Peter was concerned we may say that He saw across to the victory that would be given. But we know, though we cannot understand it, that He was man, too, and the word in Hebrews says that He suffered being tempted; to suffer means to endure or

experience pain, so there is no escape by that door.

"Is there one for whom we are praying who seems to be unhelped by that prayer? Are we suffering, enduring, experiencing the bitterness of disappointment? Our dear Lord has been this way before. We shall find Him there. He who 'turned and looked upon Peter' will give to us, will maintain in us, His own eternal tenderness of spirit, the love that cannot be tired out of loving, the patience that will not let go."

My friend, if you are tired of praying because it seems your prayers are making matters worse, I would encourage you to remember that God often has to do stirring up and breaking down that creates pain and pressure in the life of the person in whom He intends to do a mighty work.

I spoke with a young man the other evening who was bemoaning a situation he's in that is crumbling before his eyes. While I feel compassion for him, I know that this seeming disaster in his life is a breaking that God must do before the prayers of his family and friends can possibly be answered.

Never give up, even when it seems that your prayers are achieving nothing but problems for the object of your loving concern. God is still on the throne, and though He understands and sympathizes with your feelings, He knows what He is doing. Be patient. Things are not what they seem.

Jan Silvius
From *The 5-Minute Devotional*

Growth In Jesus

SING TO THE LORD A NEW SONG A STUDY OF PSALM 96

Week Six God's Reign is Forever (Psalm 96:10)

Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns." The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity. (Psalm 96:10)

Of all God's wondrous and wonderful attributes, the most important of all may be his immortality, because that guarantees and proves all of his other qualities. Any person, object, or force in this present world can always cease to exist at any time. Nothing in the physical universe is permanent or eternal, and for that reason no earthly thing is fit to be the object of our devotion or our purpose in life. But God will always live and reign, and so all the other things he provides us, all the things for which we depend on him, will be there, too. What he has done cannot be destroyed by any force in the universe. In a perishable world, in which we have so little to rely upon, God stands out brilliantly, and gives us something truly to sing about.

From this basic fact about God come many implications. First, it is one more reminder of how vital it is to get it into our craniums that the true purpose of our lives is found in eternity, not in this world. God is by his very nature eternal, and he therefore thinks and acts with eternal considerations foremost in

mind. If we cannot come to appreciate this perspective, we shall always be mystified, frustrated, or disappointed by what he does. While he gives us many blessings in this world, he is first of all concerned with preparing us and others to live with him forever, and if we fail to appreciate this, we shall miss much of what he does.

Another basic, but important, implication is that since God is both eternal and immortal, he will always know and understand infinitely more than we do. He even sent his own Son to live as one of us, so that he also knows exactly what it is like to face the temptations, discouragements, and fears that humans must live with. It is bizarre and troubling when humans think they know better than God does. He knows our lives better than we do, he knows our ministries better than we do, and he knows what we and others need more than we do.

Finally, God's immortality guarantees that he will judge his creation someday. No one can hope to outlive God. To the unbeliever, this can and should be a terrifying thought. Every pagan and atheist is guaranteed to stand one day before his or her Creator, and to have the unpleasant and impossible task of explaining why he or she chose to ignore God. But to the believer, the assurance of judgment should be a comfort and a source of hope. For the believer who has responded to God's offer of grace, there is nothing to worry about in the judgment, because the blood of Christ will cover every sin.

- Mark W. Garner

Family Information

Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is in need of the following:
Dry milk (one-quart packs only please),
Saltine crackers, coffee

Northlands Pictorial Directory

Please make sure you have checked all your family information when you sign-up. We need your current address, current phone number, your e-mail address and your spouse's e-mail address, make sure all your children are listed and the spelling is correct. This information will be sent to Olan Mills and will be printed in the back of the directory. We are currently using an old database and are sure that a lot of the information is wrong. Do not assume we have the correct info!!!!

Teens

Money is due for Fallfest today. The Perrysburg youth rally is not at the end of September as written on the youth calendar, it is October 28th. Remember the bonfire at the Gale's home on October 21st.

Words Of Wisdom

The cause of the weakness of your Christian life is that you want to work it out partly, and to let God help you. And that cannot be. You must come to be utterly helpless, to let God work, and God will work gloriously.

-Andrew Murray
From Absolute Surrender

Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 am
Sunday Worship Service	10:30 am
Sunday Evening	5:30 pm
Wednesday Evening	7:00 pm

Elders: Wilbur Allen, Frank Chappell, Roy Estep, Gene Prince, Ray Thome
Deacons: Brian Arnold, Tom Barnhardt, John Bradley, Lynn Champney, Darrell Estep, Jack Evans, Don Gillespie, Lou Lawrence, Jack Mauersberg, Beryl McMasters, Mark Morris, Charlie Yates
Youth Minister: Bobby Graham
Evangelists: Mike Hipes, Tom Barnhardt

Calendar

October

4	50'S Plus Meeting
5-7	Northland Pictorial Directory Photography Days
6-8	Fallfest (Niagara Falls, New York)
13-15	Marriage Retreat
15	50's Plus "Eat Out Sunday"
18	50'S Plus Meeting
21	Teens Saturday Fun Day At The Gale's Home 6:30 p.m.-10:00 p.m.
28	Perrysburg Youth Rally
29	5th Sunday Activity

Contributions

Last Week	\$5847	Avg YTD	\$5653
Russia	\$162	Avg YTD	\$264
Youth Min.	\$155	Avg YTD	\$326

Northland Church of Christ 4581 Cleveland Ave. Columbus, OH 43231 (614) 475-0161

Butterfly Summer

For me, this has been a butterfly summer. It all started through my love of pansies. I love the way the flowers look like the faces of lions and the brilliant shades of purple they come in (purple being my favorite color). Anyway, one afternoon I was checking one of my pots of pansies and discovered a little fellow on one of the stems. He was reddish-brown with white stripes and dark tines, which would turn into an iridescent blue in the sunlight. I immediately assumed I had found a butterfly caterpillar. Doug took one look at him and said he would probably turn into a moth, but I was undeterred. I put the little guy in a jar and immediately proceeded to the Internet - to find out just what kind of butterfly he would become. After much searching I discovered I had found the caterpillar of a Variegated Fritillary butterfly. I was thrilled and Doug was impressed that it would not turn into a moth after all.

For about a week or so, I fed him fresh leaves from my pots of pansies (an easy task as I had four pots of them). Then he attached himself to the nylon I had placed over the top of the jar as a lid, and in about a day he was in his cocoon. A beautiful cocoon. It was silver-gray green with black splotches on the side. But the most wondrous thing about it was the tiny gold tines, which ran vertically along one side of it. "Not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these." (Matt. 6:29) It only took a little over a week for him to emerge as a beautiful black and amber winged creature, which flew over the top of our neighbor's house and then was gone.

The whole experience was so awesome, such a testimony to God's power, goodness and glory, that I didn't have the heart to throw out the one thing he left behind: the empty shell of his cocoon. For a while it set out in the garage, still inside the jar I had kept him in. Then one day, Doug and I were cleaning out the garage and I came across it. I knew it was impractical to keep it and I decided to throw it away. But before I did I couldn't help but reach inside the jar and take the shell out, just to touch it and see what it was like.

(Continued on page 2)

NORTHLAND
 Messenger

October 9, 2000
 Volume 9, Number 40

I had expected, for some strange reason, for it to be tougher than it actually was. It was so light and thin the wind blew it out of my hand. It made me think about how our bodies are like this thin little thing that I had held in my hand for only a moment. How often do we look at ourselves and think as I did when the cocoon wasn't empty? How often do we get so caught up with appearances we forget that the most amazing thing about ourselves isn't the outer package but the inner one: the transformation that is going on inside. We forget that our bodies and outer pleasures are transient; they don't last. They're like the grass of the field "which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire" (Luke 12:28). "For, 'All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall'" (1 Peter 1:24).

Because we sometimes ignore our soul in favor of outer pleasures when our time on this earth is over, some of us discover that when it's time to emerge as this beautiful butterfly we end up not becoming a butterfly at all. You see with butterflies, every so often what comes out of the cocoon are flies or small wasps. Somewhere along the way, something with the metamorphosis goes horribly wrong. In the end nothing beautiful comes out.

Like the butterfly in the cocoon, we're all being transformed. Unlike the butterfly, we decide what we emerge as. "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." (Romans 12:2). Do you know what you will become?

- Jennifer Cvelbar



Growth In Jesus

SING TO THE LORD A NEW SONG A STUDY OF PSALM 96

Week Seven

Praise from A Joyful Creation (Psalm 96:11-13)

Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it; let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them. Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy; they will sing before the Lord, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his truth. (Psalm 96:11-13)

The Psalm concludes with some vivid imagery of God's creation giving praise to him. The poetic images in these verses, of the various parts of the creation praising God, are meant to emphasize a couple of important points. First, they remind us that every part of God's creation does indeed praise him, even if they cannot do so in a literal sense. Psalm 148 develops this theme even more fully, in an entire Psalm's worth of these kind of images. But these pictures of inanimate objects (such as the sea and the fields) giving praise to God are also meant to convict us. All of God's creation gives forth constant praise to him, except the one part of it that most ought to do so. It is a final call to stir us to unceasing, genuine praise of God.

As Psalm 19 tells us, "The heavens declare the glory of God ... day after day they pour forth speech." Every part of the creation - the stars, the planets, the sea, the mountains, the animals, the plants - praises God every moment, simply by being and by reflecting the genius of the Creator. Those who sing a new song, who take the time to

open their eyes to God's hand at work, will walk through life in the presence of a continual symphony of praise to the living God. Should we ever feel in need of proof that God lives, and that he is powerful, we need look no farther than the nearest thing he created.

And every part of the creation, with one exception, always does just what God planned for it to do. Celestial bodies follow the orbits God prepared for them. Natural forces act as God designed them to. Animals act in accordance with the instincts God gave them. Plants grow and flourish through the life cycles God established for them, and the nutrients he gives them. Nothing rebels against its purpose, everything functions as God intended. Except for humanity. The one part of creation for which God made the rest, and the only part of creation that God made in his own image, is also the only part that ever dares to act contrary to God's will. Let's keep this in mind the next time we begin to feel that we have a right to break God's laws or to resist his will.

The free will that God has given us is a great blessing, but also a great responsibility. He gives us a choice - we can sing the same old song, and live our lives seeking the usual dreary rubbish that the rest of the world hankers after, or we can sing a new song, and allow our hearts and minds to be refreshed and reconditioned so that we can know God, and can experience the full measure of the joy and fulfillment that come from close fellowship with him.

- Mark W. Garner

Family Information

Please God, I'm only 17

The day I died was an ordinary school day. How I wish I had taken the bus. But I was too cool. When the 2:50 bell rang, I was free until 8:40 tomorrow morning! I ran to the parking lot, excited at the thought of driving a car and being my own boss. Free! It doesn't matter how the accident happened. I was goofing off—going too fast. Taking crazy chances. But I was enjoying my freedom and having fun. The last thing I remember was passing an old lady who seemed to be going awfully slow. I heard the deafening crash and felt a horrible jolt. Glass and steel flew everywhere. My whole body seemed to be turning inside out. I heard myself scream. Suddenly I awakened; it was very quiet. A police officer was standing over me. Then I saw a doctor. My body was mangled. I was saturated with blood. Pieces of jagged glass were sticking out all over. Strange that I couldn't feel anything. Hey, don't pull that sheet over my head! I can't be dead. I'm only 17. I've got a date tonight. I'm supposed to grow up and have a wonderful life. I haven't lived yet. I Can't be dead! Later I was placed in a drawer. My folks had to identify me. Why did they have to see me like this? Why did I have to look at Mom's eyes when she faced the most terrible ordeal of her life? Dad suddenly looked like an old man. He told the man in charge, "Yes, he is my son." The funeral was a weird experience. I saw all my relatives and friends walk toward the casket. They passed by, one by one, and looked at me with the saddest eyes I've ever seen. Please—somebody—wake me up! Get me out of here! Please don't bury me! I'm not dead! I have a lot of living to do! I promise if you give me one more chance, God, I'll be the most careful driver in the world. Please, God, I'm only 17!

—Anonymous

Services

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am
 Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am
 Sunday Evening 5:30 pm
 Wednesday Evening 7:00 pm

Elders: Wilbur Allen, Frank Chappell, Roy Estep, Gene Prince, Ray Thorne
Deacons: Brian Arnold, Tom Barnhardt, John Bradley, Lynn Champney, Darrell Estep, Jack Evans, Don Gillespie, Lou Lawrence, Jack Mauersberg, Beryl McMasters, Mark Morris, Charlie Yates
Youth Minister: Bobby Graham
Evangelists: Mike Hipes, Tom Barnhardt

Northland Church of Christ 4581 Cleveland Ave. Columbus, OH 43231 (614) 475-0161

Calendar

October

- 6-8 Fallfest (Niagara Falls, New York)
- 13-15 Marriage Retreat
- 15 50's Plus "Eat Out Sunday"
- 18 50'S Plus Meeting
- 21 Teens Saturday Fun Day At The Gale's Home 6:30 p.m.-10:00 p.m.
- 28 Perrysburg Youth Rally
- 29 5th Sunday Activity

Thank You

You were Sue's very favorite family and she loved you deeply. Your floral tribute is a fitting display of beauty for a beautiful life. We all miss her deeply and more so in the days to come. Thanks for your remembrance. I love you, in Him.

Bailey

World Christian Broadcasting

Our primary junior worship class is sending their contribution of \$107 to Andy Baker at World Christian Broadcasting and we encourage anyone else who will help to give their money to any of the elders. This will be money well spent in spreading the Good News.

—Roy Estep

Contributions

	Last Week	\$6171	Avg YTD	\$5666
Russia	\$340	Avg YTD	\$266	
Youth Min.	\$310	Avg YTD	\$325	

N O R T H L A N D Messenger

October 8, 2000
 Volume 9, Number 41

Draw Near To God ...

DRAW NEAR TO GOD AND HE WILL DRAW NEAR TO YOU

Not long ago I heard a story about a young man and an old preacher. The young man had lost his job and didn't know which way to turn. So he went to see the old preacher.

Pacing about the preacher's study, the young man ranted about his problem. Finally he clenched his fist and shouted, "I've begged God to say something to help me. Tell me, Preacher, why doesn't God answer?"

The old preacher, who sat across the room, spoke something in reply – something so hushed it was indistinguishable. The young man stepped across the room. "What did you say?" he asked.

The preacher repeated himself, but again in a tone as soft as a whisper. So the young man moved closer until he was leaning on the preacher's chair. "Sorry," he said. "I still didn't hear you." With their heads bent together, the old preacher spoke once more. "God sometimes whispers," he said, "so we will move closer to hear Him."

This time the young man heard and he understood. We all want God's voice to thunder through the air with the answer to our problem. But God's is the still, small voice...the gentle whisper.

Perhaps there's a reason. Nothing draws human focus quite like a whisper. God's whisper means I must stop my ranting and move close to Him, until my head is bent together with His. And then, as I listen, I will find my answer. Better still, I find myself closer to God.

Verse A Week Club

Serving God

ONE DAY AT A TIME

Several years ago it seems the phrase "One Day At A Time" became very popular. It was not a new idea but you began seeing it on signs and bumper stickers all around town. We know the concept is at least 2,000 years old because Christ tells us not to worry about tomorrow, today has enough troubles of its own.

What does it mean to take life one day at a time? Do we ignore the future and not make plans. Does it mean to simply skate through life and let fate control us? Jesus tells of a farmer who had a bumper crop and decided to replace his barns with larger ones to store his grain and then live the easy life. In today's terms, he took an early retirement. Christ goes on to say that his soul was required of him that very night. On the other hand, James makes it clear that any future plans must include the Lord. This is the key to planning for the future: Is Christ a part of the plan?

Back in the Sixties and Seventies there was a very strong attitude against materialism from my generation. The focus was on peace in the world and loving your neighbor. Unfortunately, this "peace and love" attitude was extended only to those who agreed with you socially and politically. Many were out trying to "find themselves" and let life carry them wherever it willed. As a result, you had a lot of people going nowhere fast. They began to trust in fate, luck and karma. When you let life take you where it will, you don't have to make plans. In fact making plans prevents fate from working fully in ones life. What so many could not see was that they were not living a

life with no direction, but a life that was misdirected: Christ was not a part of the plan.

Does Christ really expect us not to make plans for the future? On the day Adam and Eve sinned, Christ's mission was set and it would be several thousand years before he began his earthly ministry. That certainly seems to be planning for the future. While on this earth he spoke time and time again of his future death and resurrection. But Jesus never made one move on his own. He would always go to the Father. He had such a bond with the Father that Jesus could say that if we have seen him, we have seen the Father. Before his ascension, Christ told his disciples to preach the Gospel throughout the entire world and that salvation was for all who accepted the message. Certainly this is planning for the future. The difference is in whether Christ is a part of the plan.

When I became a Christian, it was to gain eternal life. This was not a selfish move on my part, but an act of obedience to the one that created me. It was a response to the love shown from the Creator to the created. Every plan I make must include the Lord. To think that I should let life carry me along from one situation to another is to misunderstand the teachings of Jesus. In the story of the ten maidens waiting for the groom, five planned for the future and five did not. Those who did not plan were left outside. By not planning for the future and making Christ the center of our plans, we too will be left outside. One of the greatest lessons we can teach our children is this: Is Christ a part of the plan?

Richard Burch
(Temple City, California)

Growth In Jesus

THE FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY LESSONS FROM ACTS 13 & 14

Week One: Introduction & Overview

The book of Acts, written originally as a follow-up to Luke, tells us how the good news of the gospel spread after the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. God's plan is set forth in the first chapter, when Jesus tells the apostles that they will be his witnesses in Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. The book of Acts then describes for us the significant steps by which this plan was carried out by God's will, culminating in the arrival of the gospel in Rome, at the time the world's most powerful and influential city. Acts does not include every mission of the early church, but rather preserves records for us of those mission efforts that most notably brought the gospel to new geographical regions or to new social or cultural groups.

A major part of the book of Acts (Acts 13:1-21:17) describes the three major missionary journeys of the apostle Paul and his closest associates. These three mission tours saw the birth of dozens of new churches, many of which would themselves soon take the gospel to new places. The record of Paul's journeys also provides us with many practical insights into the ways that the early Christians preached the gospel, and into the ways that they strengthened the congregations they had begun. Careful, open, and honest study of Acts can provide us with direction for our own evangelistic ministries, and can also challenges today's Christians to reconsider the faulty perspectives and self-willed methods that are all too prevalent in any era.

The First Missionary Journey, the topic of this study, took place in about AD 46-48, and is described in Acts 13:1-14:28. It saw the gospel taken to Cyprus and to several areas in what is now southern Turkey. On the Second Missionary Journey (about AD 50-52; Acts 15:40-18:22), Paul and his associates revisited some of the cities on the first journey, then went into Europe for the first time, going through Macedonia and Greece, and also visited several areas in what is now western Turkey (called Asia in the Bible). The Third Missionary Journey (about AD 54-58; Acts 18:23-21:17) focused on the same basic areas, but included additional cities in those regions, and also saw Paul spend considerable time strengthening some of the churches that began on earlier journeys.

It is on the first journey that this study will concentrate. We shall see God's call for Paul and Barnabas to go out (13:1-3), as they were led by the Spirit. They went first to Cyprus (13:4-12), facing an eager audience but also a hard-hearted opposition. Their mission in Pisidian Antioch is covered in great detail (13:13-52), and it was as a result of events there that Paul's ministry began to focus primarily on the Gentiles. They faced more opposition in Iconium (14:1-7), and then an audience that was eager, but for the wrong reasons, in Lystra (14:8-20). Finally, they revisited several of their previous stops to strengthen the new congregations (14:21-28). At each point of the journey, we shall learn valuable lessons for our own ministries.

- Mark W. Garner

Family Information

Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is in need of the following:
Dry milk (one-quart packs only please),
Saltine crackers, beef stew, pork and beans.

Northland Members

As most of you know, we as a congregation have been planning for the appointment of additional elders for several months now. We wish to continue that effort with the goal of appointing one or two new elders during the first quarter of 2001. In view of this, we ask our members to begin searching their hearts, the scriptures, and the Northland Directory for men suitable to this important office. We especially encourage you to re-examine the Bible passages that we recently studied in our Wednesday night class regarding the duties and responsibilities of elders. In a few weeks we will be asking the congregation to submit the names of nominees along with a brief explanation of why you feel each nominee would make a good Elder.

The Elders

Thorne's Small Group

The small group that had been meeting at the Arnold's, Champney's, and Bradley's...has (hopefully) found a new home at the Thorne's new house in Northeast Westerville. If you need a map to the Thorne's new house, see Ray Thorne.

Services

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am
Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am
Sunday Evening 5:30 pm
Wednesday Evening 7:00 pm

Elders: Wilbur Allen, Frank Chappell, Roy Estep, Gene Prince, Ray Thorne
Deacons: Brian Arnold, Tom Barnhardt, John Bradley, Lynn Champney, Darrell Estep, Jack Evans, Don Gillespie, Lou Lawrence, Jack Mauersberg, Beryl McMasters, Mark Morris, Charlie Yates
Youth Minister: Bobby Graham
Evangelists: Mike Hipes, Tom Barnhardt

Calendar

October

18 50'S Plus Meeting
21 Teens Saturday Fun Day At The Gale's Home
6:30 p.m.-10:00 p.m.
28 Perrysburg Youth Rally
29 5th Sunday Activity

November

1 50'S Plus Meeting
7 Election Day
12 Services At Willow Brook
15 50'S Plus Meeting
19 50'S Plus "Eat Out Sunday"
20 Harvest Sunday
22 No Bible Classes-Devo in Auditorium
23 Thanksgiving

Contributions

Last Week	\$5070	Avg YTD	\$5651
Russia	\$105	Avg YTD	\$262
Youth Min.	\$255	Avg YTD	\$324

Salt Secrets

So you thought that salt was used mostly for poached eggs, baked potatoes, and sliced tomatoes? Guess again. According to "Believe it or Not," salt has "over 14,000 uses, but people think of it mainly as a food seasoning—although less than five percent of the world's salt is used for this purpose." The salt institute notes that 22.9 million tons of "one of the most plentiful and widely used chemicals on earth" are produced annually in the U.S. for things such as highway deicing, chemical manufacturing, water conditioning, food and food processing, agriculture, and general industrial use.

The Bible contains forty-five references to salt, from Lot's wife to Levitical offerings to probably the most familiar passage in this vein: "Ye are the salt of the earth" (Matt. 5:13). In the spiritual realm, perhaps the two outstanding characteristics of salt are that it retards corruption and creates thirst.

Corruption abounds in this godless age; first because unregenerate multitudes give themselves over to all uncleanness, and second because so many "twentieth century Corinthians" have a name to live by, but deny the power thereof. So the truly born-again, separated believer, not walking after the course of this age, will tend to retard corruption by his consecrated life and example.

As believers, we should also live our lives in such fashion that others will see Christ in us and "thirst" for what we have. In Matthew 5:16, Christ commands, "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Mark 9:50 says, "Salt is good: but if the salt have lost its saltness, wherewith will ye season it?" Christian brother, have you lost your saltiness?

Bernard DeRemer
(West Liberty, OH)

N O R T H L A N D
Messenger

October 15, 2000
Volume 9, Number 42

Serving God

REMEMBERING TO SAY "THANK YOU!"

When Peter Cummings was a little boy, his mother told him how important it was to write thank-you notes. So it became second nature to him. And when he became chairman of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra in 1998, he began writing personal notes to anyone contributing \$500 or more to the orchestra.

His habits made news recently. When Mary Webber Parker donated \$50,000 to the orchestra, Cummings sat down and composed a note to her. Two weeks later, she wrote back and promised another \$50,000. Cummings wrote her again. The upshot of the exchanges was a donation of \$500,000 a year for five years - "a most generous \$2.5 million boon to the arts in Detroit."

All of us who have had mothers or mentors have been taught life's "little things" by them. But we tend to lose sight of them as we grow up, pursue our adult life goals, and focus on the life's big things. We neglect them. Life grows a bit coarser. And we grump about today's young people and their lack of civility and good manners.

There's nobody to blame but ourselves. Quit pointing fingers at teenagers. Don't scold your own children or grandchildren. Instead, pay attention to the little things that collectively compose and define life. A good beginning point is gratitude.

Make it a point today to thank someone for

something. Whether a person you know well or a stranger you are likely never to see again, respond to the man or woman who renders you a service, helps you with a project, or makes your world a bit more pleasant with a smile. Don't do it in hopes of getting a Peter Cummings-like reward for being considerate or appreciative. Do it simply because it is right.

Does your wife or your husband start the morning coffee? Do you work for a good boss or have a loyal assistant? Do you like the way the laundry does your shirts? Do the people who service your car do it well? Does your Sunday School teacher do a good job with the class? Then say so to that person. Or tell that person's supervisor or his or her company president about it.

Even if you do nothing more than smile and nod to someone who holds a door for you or say thanks to the postman or UPS driver who delivers something to you, that moment of contact builds community. It affirms another human being. It connects two people who may never know each other's names.

Or maybe—as with Peter Cummings—there will be a reward in it for you. It could even be something more valuable than money. You could make a friend or become a partner with God in nourishing a soul made in his own image.

Rubel Shelly & The Woodmont Hills Church

Growth In Jesus

THE FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY LESSONS FROM ACTS 13 & 14

Week Two: The Spirit's Call (Acts 13:1-3)

The missionary journeys of the apostle Paul, then called Saul of Tarsus, began as an outgrowth of the flourishing ministry in Antioch. Acts 11:19-30 describes how this congregation started, as a ministry of the Jewish Christians who had been driven away from Jerusalem and Judea by persecution. With Barnabas and later Saul to assist them, Antioch soon became a center of ministry and prophecy, and it is where the name "Christian" was first used. As we see in Acts 13:1, it was home to some of the most influential leaders and teachers of the early church.

We see in Acts 13:2-3 how the missionary journey began. Notice two important points. First, the call to send a mission comes in the midst of a time of fasting and worshiping. Second, the call to send this particular mission is unmistakably the will of God, expressed by the Holy Spirit. There is no trace of self-will in the way that this great work of God began. There was no seeking after glory, excitement, or adventure. The call came from God's will alone, and it was heard clearly because these believers were doing everything possible to make themselves open to God's will.

Many believers say that they would be willing to do anything God asked, if only they knew God's will for their lives. But then, since they cannot see any obvious "sign" from God, they return to their pursuit of earthly accomplishments and material possessions. Then they are surprised that God never seems to call them, and wonder why he doesn't seem to be able to use them. We must make ourselves ready! We must open our

eyes, ears, and hearts to God's will. These brothers in Antioch heard the Spirit's call because they were in constant worship, prayer, study, and fasting. They did not pray or study only when the whole church was assembled, but took every opportunity to do so. If we want to be used by God, we must do away with every excuse, and make a top priority out of studying the Scriptures and praying, both alone and with others. There is no other way to become attuned to the Word and will of God, or to make oneself ready to hear when God calls.

Once we make the effort to ready our hearts, fighting off slothfulness, selfishness, and worldly distractions, we must then clear another hurdle, that of self-will. It is a sad truth that sometimes the most diligent believers succumb to impatience, and instead of waiting for the opportunities that God is preparing for the proper time, they run ahead and force the issue. They may even have some form of success, as measured outwardly, but at the expense of swelling with pride, trampling the weak, or bringing the truth into disrepute.

Being led by the Spirit is a simple concept, but it means maintaining a delicate balance. To be truly led by the Spirit, we must sacrifice time and energy to make prayer, study, and worship a vital presence in our lives, so that we are ready when God calls. Then we must trust God that he will show us the doors he wishes to open, at the proper time. If we are truly in step with the Spirit, we shall have no difficulty discerning his call, and responding to it, when it comes.

- Mark W. Garner

Family Information

Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is in need of the following:
Dry beans, paper towels, pork and beans.

Northland Members

As most of you know, we as a congregation have been planning for the appointment of additional elders for several months now. We wish to continue that effort with the goal of appointing one or two new elders during the first quarter of 2001. In view of this, we ask our members to begin searching their hearts, the scriptures, and the Northland Directory for men suitable to this important office. We especially encourage you to re-examine the Bible passages that we recently studied in our Wednesday night class regarding the duties and responsibilities of elders. In a few weeks we will be asking the congregation to submit the names of nominees along with a brief explanation of why you feel each nominee would make a good Elder. The Elders

You Are Invited

Beryl and Marie McMasters would like you to help them celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Sunday October 29th from 2-4:00 p.m. in the annex. No gifts, but cards are welcome.

Special Thanks

We would like to thank Mabel Long for her donation to Northland in memory of Jane Wooster. We would also like to thank Joel and Betty Barnard for their donation to Northland in memory of Sue Barton.

Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 am
Sunday Worship Service	10:30 am
Sunday Evening	5:30 pm
Wednesday Evvning	7:00 pm

Elders: Wilbur Allen, Frank Chappell, Roy Estep, Gene Prince, Ray Thorne
Deacons: Brian Arnold, Tom Barnhardt, John Bradley, Lynn Champney, Darrell Estep, Jack Evans, Don Gillespie, Lou Lawrence, Jack Mauersberg, Beryl McMasters, Mark Morris, Charlie Yates
Youth Minister: Bobby Graham
Evangelists: Mike Hipes, Tom Barnhardt

Calendar

October

28	Perrysburg Youth Rally
29	5th Sunday Activity

November

1	50'S Plus Meeting
7	Election Day
12	Services At Willow Brook
15	50'S Plus Meeting
19	50'S Plus "Eat Out Sunday"
20	Harvest Sunday
22	No Bible Classes-Devo in Auditorium
23	Thanksgiving

Mexico Mission Trip

On Sunday, October 29 the youth group will be having a fund raiser at Fudruckers on Cleveland Ave. For everyone who eats there on that day and has a certificate from us, Fudruckers will donate 20% to the Northland Church of Christ youth group. This will be used for our Mexico mission trip. The certificates will be available beginning this Sunday from Bobby.

Contributions

	Last Week	Avg YTD	\$5613
Russia	\$237	Avg YTD	\$262
Youth Min.	\$245	Avg YTD	\$322

Northland Church of Christ 4581 Cleveland Ave. Columbus, OH 43231 (614) 475-0161

N O R T H L A N D Messenger

October 22, 2000
Volume 9, Number 43

What Are You Worried About ?

I heard about a patient in a mental hospital who was holding his ear close to the wall, listening intently. The attendant finally approached. "Shh!" whispered the patient, beckoning him over. The attendant pressed his ear to the wall for a long time. "I can't hear a thing," he said. "I know," replied the patient, "it's been like that all day!"

Have you ever worried so much about things going wrong that you begin to worry when everything goes right? Worry probably does more than anything else to keep us from having peace of mind.

Psychologists (with nothing better to do) have come up with some statistics about our worries. They say that 40% of the things we worry about never happen, 30% of the things we worry about have already happened (and thus can't be changed), 12% of our worries focus on health concerns, and 10% of our worries are over insignificant things.

That means that over 80% of our worries are about things which are unimportant, or that we have absolutely no control over.

So, what have you been worrying about lately?

"Do not worry about anything, but pray and ask God for everything you need, always giving thanks. And God's peace, which is so great we cannot understand it, will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7, NCV)

Alan Smith
(Boone, NC)

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7

Serving God

GODLY REPENTANCE

The story is told of a man who stole an ox. In punishment, he was placed in a large wooden collar. A friend came along and asked him what crime he had committed to merit such treatment. The thief replied, "I was just walking across the street when I saw on the ground a grass rope. Thinking it was of no use, I made the mistake of picking it up and taking it home, and so I got into this trouble."

"But what could be wrong with picking up a grass rope? the friend wanted to know.

"Well, something was tied to the other end of the rope."

"And what was that?"

To which the thief replied, "A very small ox."

What "small oxen" have you picked up lately? Have you ever justified an angry outburst, for example, on the basis of the other person's rude behavior? In other words, if they had not left their string dangling, you would not have walked off with their ox!

An interesting Scripture passage deals with this kind of situation in a very practical way. Paul, in writing to some Corinthian believers who had blown it and were aware of their sin, says:

"I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done." (2 Cor. 7:9-11).

When we are truly repentant, there is an attitude of brokenness, an earnestness, a hatred for what has been done; there is a zeal and a longing to avoid any further taint of the sin. And it only comes when we see our sin the way God sees it. Eventually, we realize that our anger, our bitterness, or backbiting, our lack of forgiveness—all these and more grieve God. He is grieved because He knows that sin leads to a death in us—death to our ability to be useful, death to our fellowship with Him, death to the peace and freedom that is every believer's heritage.

Ask God to show you what is at the end of your rope. If you ask Him to be specific, you'll be surprised as just how specific He will be. Then ask Him to give you a heart of godly repentance— not only changing your mind but your direction. Viewing your sin as God views it is the first step toward true repentance.

Jan Silvius

Growth In Jesus

THE FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY LESSONS FROM ACTS 13 & 14

Week Three

The Mission On Cyprus (Acts 13:4-12)

The first stop for Barnabbas and Saul (as he was then called) on their mission tour was the island of Cyprus, not far from Antioch. Beginning in the Jewish synagogues, they spoke about the gospel of Jesus to all who would hear. In the (then) capital of Paphos, they met the Roman proconsul, Sergius Paulus, who was keenly interested in hearing the Word of God. But they also encountered his attendant, a Jew named Elymas, who was intensely hostile to the truth of the gospel. So, at the very beginning of their journey, the believers were faced with both a great opportunity and a difficult challenge.

Saul dealt firmly and even harshly with Elymas and his attempts to distort the truth and deceive the proconsul. He openly called Elymas a deceiver and an enemy of the truth, and the Spirit of God even struck Elymas blind to demonstrate the truth of Saul's charge of spiritual blindness. With this distraction disposed of so decisively, the proconsul was awed and convicted by the truth, and he believed the gospel. The brief ministry on Cyprus is an example to us of the importance of resisting opposition for the sake of those whose hearts are open. Sergius Paulus was only given the chance to hear the gospel because the Christians were not willing to let the bitter opposition of Elymas prevent them from preaching the truth.

We certainly will not often find it necessary to denounce an unbeliever in the harsh terms that Saul used here. We know that we ought to answer unbelievers "with gentleness and respect" (1 Peter 3:15), and that we must forgive even the worst insults and injuries when they are directed at us. But this by no means should make us think that we must never speak boldly or strongly to an unbeliever. Most of the time, a Christian should speak calmly, compassionately, and considerately. But if we live by the truth, there will be times when the godly course is to speak firmly, even it means hurting feelings or damaging our personal reputations. In particular, any Christian will at times be in situations similar to that on Cyprus, when a failure to oppose false teaching or wrong behavior will result in the loss of an opportunity to reach a lost soul. Despite the immense popularity of the trendy teaching of universal acceptance of every belief and lifestyle, there are still many persons who will respond to someone who takes a stand for the right things for the right reasons - and this is exactly the type of person who is most likely to respond to the genuine gospel.

If we want God to use us, we simply are going to have to sacrifice our craving for universal popularity, our flesh's yearning for everyone to "like" us. If we live by the truth, many will in fact dislike us. This is not a risk, but a certainty, as we are told in numerous Scriptures. We cannot always be right, but we can always be honest. We can never know everything about the Bible, but we can always say what we understand it to teach, clearly and truthfully, without fear and without insecurity.

- Mark W. Garner

Family Information

Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is in need of the following:
Dry beans, dry milk (1 qt package).

You Are Invited

Beryl and Marie McMasters would like you to help them celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary today, from 2-4:00 p.m. in the annex. No gifts, but cards are welcome.

Worship

There will be an area-wide joint worship and praise service this Sunday Evening, 6 p.m. at the Genessee Avenue Church of Christ. Directions are posted on the bulletin board.

Reception

You are cordially invited to a reception in honor of the recent marriage of Wilbur and Denise Allen. The reception will be Sunday, November 5 in the Northland annex from 2 p.m. - 5 p.m. Please make plans to join us as we celebrate with Wilbur and Denise and offer blessings to God on their behalf. RSVP and sign-up sheets are located in the foyer.

Ladies

We need a committee to plan the annual Holiday Cookie Exchange for this year. If you are available to assist with this outreach ministry, please contact Lora Bradley as soon as possible.

Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 am
Sunday Worship Service	10:30 am
Sunday Evening	5:30 pm
Wednesday Evening	7:00 pm

Elders: Wilbur Allen, Frank Chappell, Roy Estep, Gene Prince, Ray Thorne
Deacons: Brian Arnold, Tom Barnhardt, John Bradley, Lynn Champney, Darrell Estep, Jack Evans, Don Gillespie, Lou Lawrence, Jack Mauersberg, Beryl McMasters, Mark Morris, Charlie Yates
Youth Minister: Bobby Graham
Evangelists: Mike Hipes, Tom Barnhardt

Calendar

October

29 5th Sunday Activity

November

1 50'S Plus Meeting
5 Wilbur And Denise Allen Reception
2:00-5:00 p.m.
7 Election Day
12 Services At Willow Brook
15 50'S Plus Meeting
19 50'S Plus "Eat Out Sunday"
20 Harvest Sunday
22 No Bible Classes-Devo in Auditorium
23 Thanksgiving

Mexico Mission Trip

Today the youth group will be having a fund raiser at Fuddrucker's on Cleveland Ave. For everyone who eats there on that day and has a certificate from us, Fuddrucker's will donate 20% to the Northland Church of Christ youth group. This will be used for our Mexico mission trip. The certificates will be available after services this Sunday from Bobby.

Contributions

Last Week	\$4907	Avg YTD	\$5597
Russia	\$172	Avg YTD	\$260
Youth Min.	\$312	Avg YTD	\$321

Northland Church of Christ 4581 Cleveland Ave. Columbus, OH 43231 (614) 475-0161

N O R T H L A N D Messenger

October 29, 2000
Volume 9, Number 44

Interest Or Identification?

"I have been crucified with Christ." Gal. 2:20.

The imperative need spiritually is to sign the death warrant of the disposition of sin, to turn all emotional impressions and intellectual beliefs into a moral verdict against the disposition of sin, that is, my claim to my right to myself. Paul says—"I have been crucified with Christ"; he does not say—"I have determined to imitate Jesus Christ." Or, "I will endeavor to follow Him—but I have been identified with Him in His death." When I come to such a moral decision and act upon it, then all that Christ wrought for me on the Cross is wrought in me. The free committal of myself to God gives the Holy Spirit the chance to impart to me the holiness of Jesus Christ.

"Nevertheless I live." The individuality remains, but the mainspring, the ruling disposition, is radically altered. The same human body remains, but the old satanic right to myself is destroyed.

"And the life which I now live in the flesh," not the life which I long to live and pray to live, but the life I now live in my mortal flesh, the life which men can see, "I live by the faith of the Son of God." This faith is not Paul's faith in Jesus Christ, but the faith that the Son of God has imparted to him—"the faith of the Son of God." It is no longer faith in faith, but faith which has overleapt all conscious bounds, the identical faith of the Son of God.

Oswald Chambers
From "My utmost for His Highest"

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."
Galatians 2:20

Serving God

FALSE PROMISES

I was driving home from my office a while back and listening to the radio. The fellow reading the news chuckled as he read the story of a man who robbed a convenience store clerk. So what could be funny about a criminal act?

The thief apparently had a neat plan worked out. He would buy a pack of gum, give the clerk a \$10 bill, and wait for her to open the cash drawer to make change. He would then grab all the money and bolt for the door. It worked. He got everything in the drawer and made a clean getaway—with a grand total of \$4.34. Since he left the clerk holding his \$10, he went in the hole to the tune of \$5.66 for all his trouble!

The truth is that sin never delivers what it promises. It always returns less than we invest in self-esteem, integrity, and spiritual security. Need proof?

*Adam and Eve were promised freedom, wisdom, and life by Satan, only to be led to commit spiritual suicide.

*Sensuous Samson fell in love with a woman who did not love God and paid with his eyesight, his freedom, and eventually his life.

*Ananias and Sapphira were going to be applauded as generous church members and wound up being buried as liars.

In each of these biblical cases, sin promised something it could not deliver. The same

things is still happening every day. Does it ever happen to you?

*A "little white lie" that wouldn't hurt anybody has grown to such proportions that she can't even count all the other falsehoods that have been necessary to cover it.

*An e-mail invitation to an Internet porn site has turned into an addiction that has cost him not only huge amounts of money but also his self-respect.

*A well-deserved drink or joint at the end of a stressful day just to unwind a bit has become an obsession that makes everything else unimportant.

Sin comes with too high a price tag. You wind up selling your soul for a handful of trinkets or a few thrills. Then comes a bitter time of reckoning and paying the piper.

The lure of evil is the promise of quick pleasure, without regard to long-term consequences. Truth and holiness are different. They often require self-denial for the sake of character, honor, and reward down the line.

If somebody offers you a scheme for getting by with something you know is wrong, just remember that somebody has fallen for a version of it before and paid a terribly high price. Juicy worms often hide some very sharp hooks.

Rubel Shelly & The Woodmont Hills Church

Growth In Jesus

THE FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY LESSONS FROM ACTS 13 & 14

Week Four

In Pisidian Antioch, Part One (Acts 13:13-43)

Not long after visiting Cyprus, Paul and his associates arrived in Pisidian Antioch. (The city is so described to distinguish it from the numerous other Antiochs in the ancient world, including the city Paul and Barnabas had started from.) This was to become a turning point in the mission, as it resulted in the shifting of emphasis to preaching the gospel primarily to Gentiles. We also see in Pisidian Antioch that Paul now begins to go by this, his Roman name, instead of his Jewish name Saul. But the ministry in this city began with an outreach to the Jews, which is described in great detail in Acts.

In Pisidian Antioch, Paul and the others visited the synagogue on the Sabbath, and were invited to speak. Paul used the opportunity to give an extensive exposition of the way that Jewish history led up to and prepared for the gospel. Paul reviewed some of the key steps in Jewish history, beginning with the Israelites in Egypt, the Exodus, and the conquest of Canaan. He spoke of the growth of Israel into a kingdom, and the rise of David and his line as the royal house of Israel. From David's line, God brought forth the Messiah, and Paul explains this in detail. He describes the ministry and significance of John the Baptist, then describes Jesus' ministry, culminating in his resurrection. Paul's point is clear: the whole purpose of Judaism was to pave the way for Jesus, and Christianity is both the logical conclusion of Judaism, and the only spiritual option for those Jews who truly believed the Scriptures.

Regardless of the reaction of the audience (which was mixed), Paul's lesson is very significant to us. Christians who are not of Jewish descent must nevertheless acquaint themselves thoroughly with the Old Testament if they wish fully to understand the ministry of Jesus and the covenant that he brought. The New Testament contains hundreds of direct quotes of the Old Testament, and many more indirect references to it, using it to confirm important points, to illustrate principles, to explain difficult concepts, and to prove the prophetic authority of the Scriptures. Those Christians who ignore, under-emphasize, or misuse the Old Testament will have many gaps in their knowledge and understanding of Christianity.

The lesson in Pisidian Antioch is significant for a second reason. It reminds and convicts us that God's plans and purposes were thought out well in advance, and were not changed according to expediency, or improvised to satisfy God's whims. The gospel was not a temporary measure, and the principles of Christianity were not designed for one historical era or culture. We are thus not free to pick and choose which teachings of the New Covenant we like, and which ones we find inconvenient or unpleasant. God's knowledge and wisdom are infinite; he knows the heart of every human and he conceived a plan that would meet the truest and deepest spiritual needs of every person who has ever lived. Instead of analyzing God's plan of salvation, we ought to appreciate the wisdom, power, and compassion of God that the gospel reveals. Instead of jabbering about how the gospel can be "made more relevant to today's world", we ought to drop to our knees and give God thanks and praise for his perfect salvation.

- Mark W. Garner

Family Information

Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is in need of the following:
Dry beans, dry milk (1 qt package) rice.

Reception

You are cordially invited to a reception in honor of the recent marriage of Wilbur and Denise Allen. The reception is **today** in the Northland annex from 2 p.m. - 5 p.m. Please make plans to join us as we celebrate with Wilbur and Denise and offer blessings to God on their behalf. RSVP and sign-up sheets are located in the foyer.

Parents of Teens

There will be a meeting for all parents of teens this Sunday right after morning services for 15 minutes at the front of the auditorium.

Congratulations

Felicia Bowe was baptized Sunday morning.

Annual Cookie Exchange

Ladies mark you calendar for the annual cookie exchange. It will be Saturday December 2nd from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. More details to follow. Any questions or if you would like to help organize, see Robbie McVicker.

Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 am
Sunday Worship	10:30 am
Service	5:30 pm
Sunday Evening	7:00 pm
Wednesday Evening	

Elders: Wilbur Allen, Frank Chappell, Roy Estep, Gene Prince, Ray Thorne
Deacons: Brian Arnold, Tom Barnhardt, John Bradley, Lynn Champney, Darrell Estep, Jack Evans, Don Gillespie, Lou Lawrence, Jack Mauersberg, Beryl McMasters, Mark Morris, Charlie Yates
Youth Minister: Bobby Graham
Evangelists: Mike Hipes, Tom Barnhardt

Calendar

November

5	Wilbur And Denise Allen Reception 2:00-5:00 p.m.
7	Election Day
12	Services At Willow Brook
15	50'S Plus Meeting
19	50'S Plus "Eat Out Sunday"
19	Harvest Sunday
22	No Bible Classes-Devo in Auditorium
23	Thanksgiving

The Power Of Attitude

"Our lives are not determined by what happens to us but how we react to what happens; Not by what life brings to us, but by the attitude we bring to life. A positive attitude causes a chain reaction of positive thoughts, events, and outcomes. It is a catalyst...a spark that creates extraordinary results."

-Selected

Contributions

Last Week	\$3998	Avg YTD	\$5561
Russia	\$190	Avg YTD	\$258
Youth Min.	\$168	Avg YTD	\$318

N O R T H L A N D Messenger

November 5, 2000 Volume 9, Number 45

Others

Lord, help me to live from day to day

In such a self-forgetful way

That even when I kneel to pray

My prayer will be for others.

Help me in all the work I do

To ever be sincere and true,

And know that all I do for you

Must needs be done for others.

And when my work in heaven's begun;

May I forget the crown I've won

While thinking still of others.

Others, Lord, yes, others;

Let this my motto be.

Help me to live for others

That I may live like Thee

From "The Lord's Way"

Serving God

HOW TO TREAT OTHERS

A young lady named Sally relates an experience she had in class, given by her teacher, whom we'll call Brother Smith. She says Brother Smith was known for his elaborate object lessons. One particular day, Sally walked into class and knew they were in for another fun day. On the wall was a big target and on a nearby table were many darts. Brother Smith told the students to draw a picture of someone that they disliked or someone who made them angry and he would allow them to throw darts at the person's picture.

Sally's girlfriend (on her right), drew a picture of a girl who had stolen her boyfriend. Another friend (on her left), drew a picture of his little brother. Sally drew a picture of Brother Smith, putting a great deal of detail into her drawing. Sally was pleased at the overall effect she had achieved.

The class lined up and began throwing darts, with much laughter and hilarity. Some of the students threw their darts with such force that their targets were ripping apart. Sally looked forward to her turn, and was filled with disappointment when Brother Smith, because of time limits, asked the students to return to their seats.

As Sally sat thinking about how angry she was because she didn't have a chance to throw any darts at her target, Brother Smith

began removing the target from the wall. Underneath the target was a picture of Jesus.

A complete hush fell over the room as each student viewed the mangled picture of Jesus; holes and jagged marks covered His face and His eyes were pierced out.

Brother Smith said only these words, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto Me." (Matthew 25:40)

No other words were necessary; the tear-filled eyes of each student focused only on the picture of Christ. The students remained in their seats even after the bell rang, then slowly left the classroom, tears streaming down their faces.

May the story above serve as a reminder that our attitude toward Jesus Christ is demonstrated in the way we treat people around us.

Alan Smith
(Boone, NC)

*"The King will reply, I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."
Matthew 24:40*

Growth In Jesus

THE FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY LESSONS FROM ACTS 13 & 14

Week Five

In Pisidian Antioch, Part Two (Acts 13:44-52)

As discussed last time, Paul's lesson in Pisidian Antioch set forth the ways that Jewish history prepared the way for the Messiah, and the ways that history and prophecy proved that Jesus Christ was that Messiah. The audience in the synagogue found this message to be worthy of further consideration, and asked Paul and Barnabas to return the following Sabbath. But in the interim, attitudes began to change, and by the time the apostles returned to speak again, the Jewish crowd had turned against them. The end result was, as Paul proclaims in verses 46-47, that the focus of Paul's mission began to shift to the Gentiles. Besides the historical significance of this development, there are also important practical lessons to be learned.

Luke's account of the mission to Pisidian Antioch tells us that the Jews turned against the gospel primarily out of jealousy (see verse 45). It simply disturbed them to see the attention that was paid to Paul and Barnabas, and this clouded their judgment. They could not evaluate the gospel message with an open heart or an open mind. Jealousy, insecurity, resentment, and similar emotions make it impossible for us to see God or to hear God, because we are too busy reacting to what the humans around us are doing. We must guard our own hearts carefully against the mistake that the Jews in Pisidian Antioch made. We must learn that the truth is not measured by a popularity poll or a democratic vote. We must also learn that none of us should expect to be

the center of attention. Christians, above all persons, should be able to rid themselves of the widespread human tendency to moan about the lack of recognition given them.

But there is also a positive side to the account. Although Paul's intended audience rejected the gospel message, and indeed caused serious problems for the missionaries (verse 50), God used the situation to spread the good news to those who wanted to hear it. Forced to speak to the Gentiles, the brothers found an eager audience, and won many hearts to the truth (verse 48). We likewise must learn to "shake the dust off our feet" (verse 51) and move on. There are too many closed minds and too many false teachers for us to waste time combating them all. When we concentrate only on refuting error, we never reach those who want the truth. It is a sad fact that human-made religions are more popular than New Testament Christianity. It is a sadder fact that, even in the church itself, there are times when false teachers are more popular than those who teach the truth. As John says (1 John 4:4-6), the world listens to those who speak from the viewpoint of the world, but those who know God listen to the truth. Our focus should be on those who want the truth. Anyone who truly wants the truth will know it when it is preached, because God will open the heart of anyone who wants the truth alone. And we should not allow ourselves to be derailed by those who do not want the truth. When they are ready for it, God will teach it to them. In the meantime, there are many who want the truth, and we ought to make more efforts to teach the truth to them.

- Mark W. Garner

Family Information

Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is in need of the following:
Vegetable soup, dry milk (1 lb package) rice.

Annual Cookie Exchange

Ladies mark you calendar for the annual cookie exchange. It will be Saturday December 2nd from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. More details to follow. Any questions or if you would like to help organize, see Robbie McVicker.

Sympathy

We want to express our sympathy to Geneva Bundy at the death of her mother, Helen Williams. The funeral was last Wednesday.

Willow Brook

Northland has the services at Willow Brook today at 2 p.m.

Harvest Sunday

Sunday evening, November 19th will be Harvest Sunday. Everyone is encouraged to bring non-perishable food items for Harvest Food Baskets. Sign up sheets are posted in the foyer. If you would like to contribute toward grocery gift certificates to go with the baskets, please see either Lynn Champney or Will Bickley.

Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 am
Sunday Worship Service	10:30 am
Sunday Evening	5:30 pm
Wednesday Evening	7:00 pm

Elders: Wilbur Allen, Frank Chappell, Roy Estep, Gene Prince, Ray Thorne
Deacons: Brian Arnold, Tom Barnhardt, John Bradley, Lynn Champney, Darrell Estep, Jack Evans, Don Gillespie, Lou Lawrence, Jack Mauersberg, Beryl McMasters, Mark Morris, Charlie Yates
Youth Minister: Bobby Graham
Evangelists: Mike Hipes, Tom Barnhardt

Calendar

November

12	Services At Willow Brook
15	50'S Plus Meeting
19	50'S Plus "Eat Out Sunday"
19	Harvest Sunday
22	No Bible Classes-Devo in Auditorium
23	Thanksgiving

December

2	Cookie Exchange
6	50's Plus Meeting
9	Leadership Retreat And Planning Meeting
16	50's Plus Xmas Luncheon At Frank And Betty Chappel's Home
17	50's Plus "Eat Out Sunday"
20	50's Plus Meeting

Contributions

Last Week	\$7706	Avg YTD	\$5608
Russia	\$360	Avg YTD	\$260
Youth Min.	\$415	Avg YTD	\$320

Northland Church of Christ 4581 Cleveland Ave. Columbus, OH 43231 (614) 475-0161

How To Handle Praise

Praise can bring out both the best and the worst in us. Compliments and encouragement may build self-esteem when given for a job well done. Our kids need to hear praise and so do our mates, our friends, and our colleagues at work. Praise is important. But we need to examine our motives when we're on the receiving end of praise.

I've always been a pushover for a kind word. As a child I occasionally sat with a favorite teacher in church. I was honored to be with her and basked in her praise when she commended me for sitting still during the service. Little did she know that it would have taken an earthquake to make me move after that! Her praise motivated my behavior.

When not taken to an extreme, praise can be a positive influence. But what about the people who become people-pleasers as a result? People-pleasers are those who never want to upset anyone, who will say yes when they really mean no, and who never express themselves freely because they live in constant fear of making someone unhappy. A "yes person" is an easy mark for manipulation.

Proverbs 27:21 says: "The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but man is tested by the praise he receives" (NIV).

If you have to have praise in order to function well or if you avoid criticism at all costs, then you may not have high integrity or self-respect. I learned that lesson several months ago when I received a glowing letter from someone who wanted to pray for me. She was quite profuse in her praise, and I was pleased that she wanted to support my ministry through prayer. When her next letter came in answer to a letter of appreciation I had written her, I was stunned by her unexpected criticism of my stationery. She told me, in so many words, that because my name was on the letterhead, I wasn't very spiritual.

Stung by this rebuke, I fretted all the way home from the post office. But by the time I pulled into the driveway, I was reminded by that familiar still, small voice that, if another's opinion could affect my joy so drastically, I was too easily swayed by opinion.

How about you? Can someone's casual criticism or word of appreciation make or break your day? Then determine to work for God's approval only. And if praise does come to you, learn to turn it to Him. "Thank you. The Lord gave me this gift, and I enjoy singing (speaking, writing, etc.) for His glory!"

Jan Silvias, From *The 5-Minute Devotional*

NORTHLAND
 Messenger

November 12, 2000
 Volume 9, Number 46

Serving God

HOW TO GET ALONG WITH PEOPLE

Live in peace with one another
Thessalonians 5:13

Peace and harmony are essential for a thriving, faithful and growing church of our Lord. Certainly, the results of peace and harmony are being evidenced in our own congregation by the continued growth and strength that is seen. Nevertheless, we must occasionally remind ourselves of some important qualities of a membership that promotes these desired results. I do not know who originally penned the following, but these ten points are no doubt worthy of our consideration.

1. Keep a chain on your tongue. Always say less than you think. You don't have to put your brain in neutral when your tongue is in gear. Every unspoken word should pass through these 3 doors. (1) Is it true? (2) Is it kind? (3) Is it necessary?
2. Make Promises sparingly and keep them faithfully, no matter what it costs you.
3. Never let an opportunity pass to say a kind and encouraging thing to or about somebody. Praise good work, regardless of who did it. If criticism is needed, do it so it will help and not hinder.

4. Be interested in others, interested in their pursuits; their welfare; their homes and families. Rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn. Let everyone you meet, however humble, feel that you regard him as one of importance.
5. Be cheerful. Keep the corners of your mouth turned up. Hide your pains, worries and disappointments as much as possible under a smile. Laugh at good stories and learn to tell them.
6. Preserve an open mind on matters of opinion. Hold fast to matters of faith, but do so in a loving spirit.
7. Let your virtues speak for themselves, and refuse to talk of others vices. Discourage gossip.
8. Be careful of another's feelings. Wit and humor at another's expense is rarely worth the effort and may hurt when least expected.
9. Pay no attention to ill-natured remarks about you. Simply live so that nobody will believe them.
10. Don't be anxious about your dues (what is due you). Do your work, be patient, keep your disposition sweet, forget self and you will be rewarded.

Barry Gilreath, Jr.
(Southaven Church of Christ)

Growth In Jesus

THE FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY LESSONS FROM ACTS 13 & 14

Week Six Opposition in Iconium (Acts 14:1-7)

After leaving behind the turmoil in Pisidian Antioch, Paul and Barnabas shook the dust off their feet and moved on to Iconium. Here they would meet with a similar response. At first, many of their listeners, both Jews and Gentiles, believed the gospel and were won to the truth. But some of the Jews who refused to believe quickly aroused fierce opposition to the missionaries, and plotted violence against them, soon driving them out of town. As always, this simply meant that they found new places to teach and preach. But once again we see sharply contrasting responses to the preaching of Paul and Barnabas. This became an established pattern, that in most cities on their journey they found an eager and enthusiastic part of the audience who responded with joy and urgency, while at the same time they aroused resentment and opposition, often dangerous, among those who did not believe or accept the gospel.

This should not really come as a surprise, nor should it be a surprise to us today when we find that some persons receive us warmly, think highly of us, and appreciate our efforts to teach them, while others in our lives are confused, frustrated, angry, or hostile about our lives and ministries. This is exactly what happened when Jesus himself lived in our physical world. There were those who loved him and revered him with all of their hearts, minds, souls, and bodies, and there were those who hated him so much that they were willing to do anything, no matter how illegal or immoral, to be rid of his

presence. Anyone who truly lives as a Christian will have this same experience in his or her life. We ought to live lives so obviously Christlike that everyone else who loves Christ will see him clearly in us. And if we do this, it is impossible also not to arouse opposition and animosity among those - and they are very many in number - who do not love the truth and do not seek God.

It is indeed sad and pathetic when those who call themselves Christians worry about what other humans think of them. Jesus said, "Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for that is how their fathers treated the false prophets" (Luke 6:26). Christians must speak the truth. Those who love the truth will love those who speak it, but those who are ruled by their fleshly passions will hate and fear those who refuse to cover up the truth for the sake of maintaining a phony outward peace. Christians must "abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul" (1 Peter 2:11). Genuine believers will respect this, admire it, and be encouraged by it. But those who live in darkness will hate us for it, because our self-control and self-denial convicts them of their own laziness, irresponsibility, and bestial lustfulness. In every way that our lives emulate Christ, we shall on the one hand inspire and encourage others who want to be like him, while simultaneously earning the opposition of those who stubbornly put their hope and trust in this sinful and perishable world.

We are going to be judged by God, not by any human or humans. Therefore let us live our lives as God calls us to, without fear, without apology, and without insecurity.

- Mark W. Garner

Family Information

Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is in need of the following: Vegetable soup, dry milk (1 qt), crackers, rice. The Food Pantry will be closed 11/22/00.

Annual Cookie Exchange

Ladies mark you calendar for the annual cookie exchange. It will be Saturday December 2nd from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at Margie Hipes home. See bulletin board for directions.

A Word From The Elders

We as a congregation have been discussing and planning for the appointment of additional elders for several months now. Last month we asked you to begin searching your hearts, the scriptures, and the Northland directory for men suitable for this important responsibility. This is an extremely serious matter, and we do not want to approach it lightly or in competition with other events. Two things are occurring during the next 1 1/2 months that would make it difficult to begin the selection process in earnest until after the first of the year: (1) the holiday season, and (2) the absence of one of our elders for nearly three weeks beginning this Thursday. Lord willing, Frank Chappell will be traveling to Russia on the 16th and returning to us the 5th of December. Our goal of appointing one or two additional elders during the first quarter of 2001 remains in effect. Please continue to prayerfully consider this matter. In January we will be asking you to submit names of potential elders along with a brief explanation of why you feel each nominee would make a good elder. Thank you for your patience.

The Elders

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Sunday Worship Service	10:30 am
Sunday Evening	5:30 pm
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Deacons: Brian Arnold, Tom Barnhardt, John Bradley, Lynn Champney, Darrell Estep, Jack Evans, Don Gillespie, Lou Lawrence, Jack Mauersberg, Beryl McMasters, Mark Morris, Charlie Yates
Youth Minister: Bobby Graham
Evangelists: Mike Hipes, Tom Barnhardt

Calendar

November

- 19 50'S Plus "Eat Out Sunday"
- 19 Harvest Sunday
- 22 No Bible Classes-Devo in Auditorium
- 23 Thanksgiving

December

- 2 Cookie Exchange
- 3 Winter Quarter Bible Classes Begin
- 6 50's Plus Meeting
- 9 Leadership Retreat And Planning Meeting
- 16 50's Plus Christmas Luncheon At Frank And Betty Chappel's Home
- 17 50's Plus "Eat Out Sunday"
- 20 50's Plus Meeting

Harvest Sunday

This Sunday evening we will have our Harvest Sunday. At the evening service, we will fill and distribute baskets in the annex. If you can assist, see Lynn Champney or Will Bickley.

COCS

Please save your receipts from Giant Eagle for COCS. For the next several months, Giant Eagle will make a donation to the school based on the amount of receipts collected. There will be an envelope on the bulletin board to put them in.

Contributions

Last Week	\$5813	Avg YTD	\$5613
Russia	\$285	Avg YTD	\$261
Youth Min.	\$245	Avg YTD	\$318

N O R T H L A N D Messenger

Volume 9, Number 47

November 19, 2000

Transformed To Beauty Of Jesus

A mother once took her young son to a Paderewski Piano concert in an effort to encourage his progress on the piano. After they were seated she spotted a friend in the audience and walked over to greet her. Seizing the opportunity to explore the wonders of the concert hall, the little boy rose and eventually made his way through a door that was marked "No Admittance." When the houselights dimmed and the concert was about to begin, the mother returned to her seat and discovered her child missing. At that time the curtains parted and spotlights focused on the impressive Steinway piano on stage.

To her horror, the mother saw the little boy sitting at the keyboard innocently picking out "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star." At that moment the great piano master made his entrance, quickly moved to the piano and whispered in the boy's ear, "Don't quit. Keep playing." Then, leaning over, Paderewski reached down with his left hand and began filling in a bass part. Soon, his right hand reached around to the other side of the boy and he added a running obbligato. Together, the old master and the young novice transformed an outrageous situation into a wonderful experience; and the audience was mesmerized.

This is what Jesus does for our lives. We plunk around on the keys of life trying to make beautiful music, but it is Jesus who transforms what we have to offer into something beautiful. During each situation, no matter how outrageous, desperate or disappointing, Jesus whispers to us, "Don't quit. You are not alone. Continue on because together we will mesmerize the world with our beauty and power."

Scott Jarvis
 (Porthales, New Mexico)
 From Bulletin Digest

"And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."

2 Corinthians 3:18

Serving God

THE GROUND HAS SHIFTED

Up until about a quarter century ago, "faith" tended to be ridiculed by the academic elite. It was frequently said, for example, that modern science has made the notion of an all-powerful, creative God both unnecessary and untenable. Such statements were shamelessly prejudiced—often invented by someone hostile to religion rather than someone informed by science. God never stopped being God!

Now the ground has shifted. More and more scientists and philosophers have stepped forward to affirm that what we know from our own investigations of the universe we inhabit reveal the fingerprints of deity. Charles Townes, who shared the 1964 Nobel Prize in Physics for discovering the principles of the laser, has written: "Many have a feeling that somehow intelligence must have been involved in the laws of the universe." What in the world would make a physicist sound like a theologian?

Physicists have weighed in against the assumption that the origin of the universe and life within it can be accounted for by random events. Thomas Huxley's famous and oft-quoted claim that a large enough number of monkeys pecking randomly on typewriters for an infinite time would eventually produce the complete works of Shakespeare is preposterous. It is not only improbable. It is impossible.

Our universe is "custom-made" for life and consciousness. If the constants of nature—things like the strength of gravity, the charge of an electron, or the mass of a proton—were infinitesimally different, atoms could not hold together, stars would not burn, and life could never have appeared on this planet.

As one scientist put it: The claim that a tornado smashing through a junkyard produced a Boeing 747 is far more plausible than anyone's assertion that random events in nature could produce intelligent life on Planet Earth. William Paley's claim that an orderly world demands a creator for the same reasons that a watch demands a watchmaker is still a perfectly good argument. It is stronger now than ever before.

If you or your children ever felt intimidated by the blustering of unbelief, there is not need for it. Hard facts and sound reasoning are on the side of faith. And the strongest case for theism is made from the source that uninformed people have been led to think was its enemy—science. God has left his fingerprints on his handiwork!

Rubel Shelly & the Woodmont Hills
Church

*"The heavens declare the glory of
God; the skies proclaim the work
of his hands."*

Psalms 19:1

Growth In Jesus

THE FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY LESSONS FROM ACTS 13 & 14

Week Seven

Maintaining the Right Focus (Acts 14:8-20)

To the faithful apostles Paul and Barnabas, their next stop on the first missionary journey, in the city of Lystra, may well have been one of the most painful and disturbing of all of their experiences. As their mission in Lystra was just getting underway, Paul gave a demonstration of the Spirit's power by healing a crippled man who was eagerly showing his attentiveness to the gospel message. But things then went wrong quickly. Rather than grasping the truth of the gospel, and rather than accepting the things that Paul was saying about the source of all power and authority, the crowd suddenly adopted the two apostles as their gods, even to the point of preparing to offer sacrifices to them. Only with great difficulty were the horrified missionaries able to quiet the tumult, and the disappointed crowd was left in a condition that made them very receptive to the negative message of the unbelieving Jews, who came to Lystra and turned the city firmly against the apostles and Christianity. Paul himself was stoned by the angry crowd, and was lucky to escape with his life.

Despite the end result - a relatively fruitless ministry and a harrowing experience - the apostles were absolutely right in refusing to accept worship of themselves. As events in Lystra illustrate, humans have an innate desire to find something to worship, and also a preference for the object of their worship to be visible and accessible. This is revealed on many occasions in our own experience. It is much easier for most persons, even those

persons who have a consciousness of God, to put their faith in a specific religious leader or religious organization rather than in the Word and will of an invisible God. When a spiritual leader becomes truly effective, this risk is multiplied, both for that leader and for those following that leader. Spiritual leaders must accept the primary responsibility themselves for keeping the focus on God, realizing that even believers can easily fall prey to the idolatry of humans. Church leaders must therefore remain deeply humble in their own hearts, and must make every effort to center their lives, ministries, and teachings around God, not around their own wisdom, charisma, or righteousness.

There are, unfortunately, many examples - even in Jesus' church - of spiritual leaders who draw followers to themselves personally, or to their favorite methodology, rather than to God himself. A key test of any spiritual leader's focus is whether he or she teaches others that they must remain dependent on a particular leader or on a particular way of doing things, or whether that leader encourages other believers to rely first of all on God, and helps them to be able to remain fruitful and faithful in any circumstances. Of course, this runs the risk of allowing deceitful pseudo-believers to use this as an excuse for straying from the body, but this risk does not justify forcing believers to put their faith in flesh. It also will often involve painful and even humiliating decisions, but in the long run only a firm resolve to keep the focus on God alone will ensure that young, growing believers develop their own genuine faith and hope in God.

- Mark W. Garner

Family Information

A Word From The Elders

We as a congregation have been discussing and planning for the appointment of additional elders for several months now. Last month we asked you to begin searching your hearts, the scriptures, and the Northland directory for men suitable for this important responsibility. This is an extremely serious matter, and we do not want to approach it lightly or in competition with other events. Two things are occurring during the next 1 1/2 months that would make it difficult to begin the selection process in earnest until after the first of the year: (1) the holiday season, and (2) the absence of one of our elders for nearly three weeks beginning this Thursday. Lord willing, Frank Chappell will be traveling to Russia on the 16th and returning to us the 5th of December. Our goal of appointing one or two additional elders during the first quarter of 2001 remains in effect. Please continue to prayerfully consider this matter. In January we will be asking you to submit names of potential elders along with a brief explanation of why you feel each nominee would make a good elder. Thank you for your patience. The Elders

Thank You

Our family cannot express enough how much it meant for the prayers, the support, and comfort you all gave us during our time of need. Special thanks to the ladies that prepared the food after the funeral. The Williams Family

Congratulations

Kim Gale was baptized Wednesday, November 15th.

Services

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am
 Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am
 Sunday Evening 5:30 pm
 Wednesday Evening 7:00 pm

Elders: Wilbur Allen, Frank Chappell, Roy Estep, Gene Prince, Ray Thorne
Deacons: Brian Arnold, Tom Barnhardt, John Bradley, Lynn Champney, Darrell Estep, Jack Evans, Don Gillespie, Lou Lawrence, Jack Mauersberg, Beryl McMasters, Mark Morris, Charlie Yates
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- 17 Teen's Christmas Party At Estep's
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- 31 Regular A.M. Schedule Resumes
- 31 Area Wide P.M. Worship At Reynoldsburg

COCS

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Contributions

Last Week		Avg YTD	
Russia	\$5418	Avg YTD	\$5609
Youth Min.	\$185	Avg YTD	\$259
	\$185	Avg YTD	\$316

The First Thanksgiving

The Pilgrim fathers long ago,
 In sober dress of gray,
 Felt stirring in their thankful hearts
 A special need to pray;
 A surge of gratitude to God
 That hunger did not press
 Upon the small band gathered there
 Within the wilderness.

And so they set aside a day
 When harvests had been stored,
 To feast and offer prayers of thanks
 For the bounty of the Lord.

And thus those Pilgrims long ago,
 By thanking God for good,
 Bequeathed to us who followed them
 The gift of gratitude.

Bulletin Digest

NORTHLAND
 Messenger

Volume 9, Number 48

November 26, 2000

Serving God

THANK GOD FOR THANKSGIVING DAY!

Thanksgiving Day, a thoroughly Christian concept, comes only a few days following Halloween, a totally pagan and Satanic observance. The status of Thanksgiving Day has been degraded badly in America in recent times. It is now often called "Turkey Day." In some schools children are taught it was inaugurated to express the colonists' thanks to the Indians! Often it is totally ignored between Halloween and Christmas.

Merchants often have nothing in their stores which indicate that it is Thanksgiving. Often it is only a holiday devoted to football rather than a day to meet in our churches and in our homes to thank God for His indescribable goodness! All of that should give Christians more impetus to observe Thanksgiving with dedication and zest.

American Thanksgiving has a pleasant history 377 years long. "The original Plymouth Thanksgiving was held under peculiar circumstances. After the first corn crop had been gathered, Governor Bradford and the Pilgrim Fathers decided to have a feast of ingathering—a day of thanksgiving. They invited the friendly Chief Massasoit to join them. He and his braves, ninety strong, came with venison and wild turkey. The surrounding woods yielded the housewives wild fruit, and the waters supplied fish and clams.

No room or home in the colony was large enough for the gathering. The children gathered wood; fires were built out of doors. The housewives united their efforts. They boiled and baked pastries, corn bread, and puddings in kettles. Wild geese, turkeys, ducks, and venison were hung on poles and roasted over open beds

of coals. Clam chowder was made hissing hot for the first course.

Tables were set under the pine trees. What was lacking by way of plates was made up by wooden trenchers. If they did not have silver spoons they had wooden ones. There were knives enough, all sorts counted, and forks they did without. The children ate by themselves or waited for second table.

What with preaching, feasting, talking and games, the exercises lasted three days. Fifty-five English-speaking people were present. Sickness had told heavily on the colony. Over forty of their band lay under the sod. Of the fifty-five mentioned there were but four women. These, with the young girls and one servant, prepared for all that large company and ninety Indians besides.

The date of the first Thanksgiving is not known. "The actual date of this festival is nowhere related..." Some say, "Bradford probably named a day in October for celebration of the first Thanksgiving." To me this is the most reasonable date. It would be quite cold in either November or December to celebrate outside for three days. However, one researcher says, "Governor William Bradford decreed that December 13, 1621, be set aside as a day of feasting and prayer, to show the gratitude of the colonists that they were still alive."

Our Pilgrim fathers had a solid biblical basis for pausing to give thanks to God, which every Christian should still honor highly. The principle is found explicitly in the Old Testament (Psalm 100:4: "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him and bless his name.") and by Jesus' constant example.

Less Turner of Key Communications

Growth In Jesus

THE FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY LESSONS FROM ACTS 13 & 14

Week Eight Strengthening the Foundations (Acts 14:21-28)

After making a last stop in Derbe, Paul and Barnabas went back through most of the cities they had just visited, and where they had helped begin congregations of the church of Christ. Their purpose was to encourage and strengthen the new believers, and also to lay additional practical foundations to keep these new congregations strong and fruitful in the future. This proved to be a regular pattern in Paul's missionary journeys, as he would henceforth start each new tour by re-visiting some of the new congregations begun on earlier journeys. The wisdom revealed by this approach holds numerous lessons for the contemporary church.

The most basic lesson is in showing us the importance of building and reinforcing good foundations. There are times when Christians should experience new things, should focus on winning converts as quickly as possible, should try to open new doors of ministry. Such activities are usually exciting, and make it easy to develop motivation and enthusiasm. But it is also important to take time to lay appropriate groundwork, to teach the basics and to review them, to pray and study, to build trust and fellowship, to practice self-discipline and, when necessary, church discipline. For many Christians, this is less exciting, and impatient Christians even at times attempt to discredit the importance of learning sound doctrine, of growing in discipline and self-control, and of other important Christian activities that do not result in any immediate payoff or excitement. It takes a genuine spiritual focus, such as Paul had,

to value and enjoy the aspects of Christianity that yield their fruit in the long term, rather than right away. Although many Christians in today's hyper-active and self-indulgent American society do not like to hear it, most of what we do in the true Christian life falls into this category.

Then too, it is important to notice the kinds of foundations that the missionaries build. They rely exclusively on important basics; on "pure spiritual milk" (1 Peter 2:2). They teach the new Christians to remain true to the faith and to endure hardships. They appoint elders, so that each congregation can grow on its own, rather than always depending on the apostles for direction and authority. They set them an example of prayer and fasting. On the other hand, they do not emphasize methodology, they do not teach them the importance of learning clever techniques or of catering to the whims of the worldly. We also must learn this lesson, that a good foundation depends not on anything new, but on accepting and practicing the same few important principles that have helped Christians of every era to remain faithful.

In all of the acts done by Paul and Barnabas on this first missionary journey, we see their consistent faith in God, both in their willingness to go wherever he opens a door, and in their devotion to the truth, always measuring success not by popular response or by personal gain or achievement, but by whether they have pointed those who were seeking the truth in the right direction.

- Mark W. Garner

Family Information

Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is in need of the following: Noodles, pancake syrup, saltine crackers.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed for the coming year to serve at the Faith Mission Shelter for men. See Peg Williams or Vicki Cage for details. Further information is posted on the bulletin board.

Teens

Winterfest is February 16-18. Money for deposit (\$30) is due now to the Spring Road Church of Christ Youth Ministry. Registration will be on a first come, first serve basis and is limited. The cost is \$90.00 which includes transportation, room and entrance into the rally. Food is extra.

Teen Parents

There will be a meeting after services in the front of the auditorium.

All Mentors

There will be a meeting Wednesday December 6th at 7:00 p.m. in the annex.

COCS Holiday Gift Shop

COCS will be having a Holiday Gift Shop again this year for our students to buy Christmas gifts for their families. If your children do not attend COCS, but would like to participate, you are invited to bring them to shop on Tuesday December, 19 from 3:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. There will be more information later or you may call the school office.

Services

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am
 Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am
 Sunday Evening 5:30 pm
 Wednesday Evening 7:00 pm

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	\$4881			\$5593
	Russia	\$300		Avg YTD \$260
	Youth Min.	\$185		Avg YTD \$313

Northland Church of Christ 4581 Cleveland Ave. Columbus, OH 43231 (614) 475-0161

NORTHLAND
 Messenger

December 3, 2000
 Volume 9, Number 49

God's Memory Aid

'But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day' (2 Pet. 3:8).

What does it mean that a day is the same as a thousand years to God? No doubt the principal meaning is that time cannot limit God, but rather is limited by Him. But whatever else is included in this teaching of Scripture, one deduction is certain: God has no memory problems!

How long ago was the crucifixion of our Lord Jesus Christ? Nearly two thousand years from our human standpoint; but God sees it differently: Two days ago, the world crucified His Son, executing Him cruelly and ignominiously, as a criminal and blasphemer. That is fresh in the Father's memory!

And that, brothers and sisters, is how fresh God wants it to be in our minds. He knows our frailties; He knows how we tend to forget even important things. He knows, too, how time can dull the impact and drain away the emotional content of even the greatest events. Even the crucifixion of the Son of God may become "ho-hum" if we are not careful.

It was for this reason that Jesus gave us a "memory aid" to help us keep the immediacy of His passion: *"Take, eat: this is my body which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me this cup is the new covenant in my blood: this do ye as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me"* (1 Cor. 11:24,25).

There is a son which asks: "Were you there when they crucified my Lord?" We should be there, in our minds, each time we partake of the Lord's Supper. We should be present at that final Passover meal. We need to see our Lord as He breaks the bread, and passes the cup. We need to hear again the words He spoke, but with the wonder of their newness, as the disciples heard them.

Let us pray to that end.

Ted Kyle
 (Pulpit Helps)

Serving God

HOW TO GET A PARROT TO TALK

The story is told of a woman who bought a parrot to keep her company, but she returned it the next day. "This bird doesn't talk," she told the owner.

"Does he have a mirror in his cage?" he asked. "Parrots love mirrors. They see their reflection and start a conversation." The woman bought a mirror and left.

The next day she returned; the bird still wasn't talking. "How about a ladder? Parrots love ladders. A happy parrot is a talkative parrot." The woman bought a ladder and left.

But the next day, she was back. "Does your parrot have a swing? No? Well, that's the problem. Once he starts swinging, he'll talk up a storm." The woman reluctantly bought a swing and left.

When she walked into the store the next day, her countenance had changed. "The parrot died," she said. The pet store owner was shocked.

"I'm so sorry. Tell me, did he ever say anything?" he asked.

"Yes, right before he died," the woman replied. "In a weak voice, he asked me, 'Don't they sell any food at that pet store?'"

Sometimes we forget what's really

important in life. We get so caught up in things that are good while neglecting the things that are truly necessary. We've got to provide the family with a nice house. And of course, we've got to have at least two cars. And to make everybody truly happy, we need the latest computer. But, if we're not careful, we'll make the mistake of thinking those (and many other such "things") are the things that bring us satisfaction and meaning.

Jesus said, "The thing you should want most is God's kingdom and doing what God wants. Then all these other things you need will be given to you." (Matthew 6:33, NCV).

Jesus didn't say you shouldn't want those other things, but this is what you should want "most."

Take a moment to do a "priority check", and strive for what is **most** important today. Don't wait for the parrot to die!

Alan Smith
(Boone, NC)

*"But seek first his kingdom
and his righteousness, and all
these things will be given to you
as well."*

Matthew 6:33

HIDDEN VERSE WORD SEARCH #1

In the diagram, the words, phrases, and names listed below are hidden. They could be forwards, backwards, up, down or diagonally in the diagram. All of the words in the list comes from a certain book of the Bible. As you find them, shade in the letters you use (some letters will be used as part of more than one name). There will be 29 unused letters, and they will spell out a verse from this week's mystery book. See if you know the book and can find the hidden verse in the book after you spell it out. Also see if you know where all the items in the list can be found in this book. (All entries are from the NIV.)

CREATURES
DEFILE
DESOLATE
DUST
ESTABLISH
EXILE
FAMINE
FEAST
FOREHEADS

FORGOTTEN
HEART
KING JEHOIACHIN
NUMEROUS
PROPHECY
SCROLL
SHADE
STUMBLING BLOCK

SUPPOSE THIS SON
THE BABYLONIANS
THE FACE OF A LION
THE KEBAR RIVER
TORRENTS
UNLEASH
WHEELS
WINDSTORM

S	T	U	M	B	L	I	N	G	B	L	O	C	K
N	U	M	E	R	O	U	S	S	O	N	O	R	I
A	M	P	R	O	P	H	E	S	Y	F	E	F	N
I	R	M	P	T	A	N	H	I	H	V	O	E	G
N	O	H	A	O	O	C	E	S	I	R	L	S	J
O	T	V	E	S	S	R	A	R	G	I	L	T	E
L	S	D	A	E	H	E	R	O	F	E	O	A	H
Y	D	E	S	O	L	A	T	E	E	M	R	B	O
B	N	X	A	N	B	T	D	H	N	D	C	L	I
A	I	I	U	E	E	U	W	E	I	T	S	I	A
B	W	L	K	N	S	R	E	Y	M	S	S	S	C
E	O	E	U	T	A	E	W	A	A	T	S	H	H
H	H	C	H	M	T	S	A	E	F	A	N	O	I
T	H	E	F	A	C	E	O	F	A	L	I	O	N

The answer, and a new puzzle, will be in the bulletin next week.

- Mark W. Garner

Family Information

Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is in need of the following: Vegetable soup, dry milk (1 qt), crackers, rice.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed for the coming year to serve at the Faith Mission Shelter for men. See Peg Williams or Vicki Cage for details. Further information is posted on the bulletin board.

Teens

Winterfest is February 16-18. Money for deposit (\$30) is due now to the Spring Road Church of Christ Youth Ministry. Registration will be on a first come, first serve basis and is limited. The cost is \$90.00 which includes transportation, room and entrance into the rally. Food is extra.

COCS Holiday Gift Shop

COCS will be having a Holiday Gift Shop again this year for our students to buy Christmas gifts for their families. If your children do not attend COCS, but would like to participate, you are invited to bring them to shop on Tuesday December, 19 from 3:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. There will be more information later or you may call the school office.

Food Pantry

The food pantry is in need of empty egg cartons. There is a man who is willing to donate eggs to the pantry but we need to supply the empty egg cartons to him.

Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 am
Sunday Worship Service	10:30 am
Sunday Evening	5:30 pm
Wednesday Evening	7:00 pm

Elders: Wilbur Allen, Frank Chappell, Roy Estep, Gene Prince, Ray Thorne
Deacons: Brian Arnold, Tom Barnhardt, John Bradley, Lynn Champney, Darrell Estep, Jack Evans, Don Gillespie, Lou Lawrence, Jack Mauersberg, Beryl McMasters, Mark Morris, Charlie Yates
Youth Minister: Bobby Graham
Evangelists: Mike Hipes, Tom Barnhardt

Calendar

December

10	Special Bible Class and Speaker
13	Wednesday Winter Adult Bible Classes Begin
14	COCS Christmas Concert 7:30 p.m.
16	50's Plus Christmas Luncheon At Frank And Betty Chappell's Home
17	Winter Adult Bible Classes Begin
17	50's Plus "Eat Out Sunday"
17	Teen's Christmas Party At Estep's
20	50's Plus Meeting
22	Christmas Caroling At Hipes's
24	No Bible Classes-No Junior Worship
31	Regular A.M. Schedule Resumes
31	Area Wide P.M. Worship At Reynoldsburg

COCS

Please save your receipts from Giant Eagle for COCS. For the next several months, Giant Eagle will make a donation to the school based on the amount of receipts collected. There will be an envelope on the bulletin board to put them in.

Contributions

	Last Week	Avg YTD		Avg YTD
	\$5801			\$5598
Russia	\$220			\$259
Youth Min.	\$360			\$314

Northland Church of Christ 4581 Cleveland Ave. Columbus, OH 43231 (614) 475-0161

N O R T H L A N D Messenger

December 10, 2000 Volume 9, Number 50

A Great Name

There is a strikingly different use of similar words in the Genesis story. One relates to the building of the tower of Babel—the other to the call of Abraham.

Proud men started building the tower. They said, "Let's build a great tower that reaches right into the habitation of God. Let's make a great name for ourselves." God was angered by their egotistic pride and scattered them. They are remembered as foolish men.

But God said to Abraham, "I will make your name great." Abraham wasn't trying to make a name for himself. He was a humble servant, committed to doing God's will. And he is remembered as a great man of faith.

"Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted" (Matthew 23:12).

Olden Cook
(Kerrville, TX)



Serving God

REALIZING OUR DEBT

Now one of the Pharisees was requesting Him to dine with him. And He entered the Pharisee's house, and reclined at the table. And behold, there was a woman in the city who was a sinner; and when she learned that He was reclining at the table in the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster vial of perfume, and standing behind Him at His feet, weeping, she began to wet His feet with her tears, and kept wiping them with the hair of her head, and kissing His feet, and anointing them with the perfume. (Luke 7:36-38)

It was a custom in that day that if a rabbi, a teacher, came to eat at a house, others were free to come in off the streets to pick up any words of wisdom that they might hear. That explains how this woman gets in to see Jesus. She is called "a sinner." Most likely, that means that she was a prostitute. No doubt she had heard Jesus speak before, and she realized that here was a man who could do something for her.

Around her neck she wore a tiny bottle of expensive perfume as did many Jewish women at that time. It was very expensive. She started to pour it on Jesus' feet, but as she did, her tears began to roll down her face onto the feet of Jesus. At that time, it was considered immodest for a woman to undo her hair in public so all women wore it

bound. But forgetting what others might think, this woman undid her hair that she might dry the tears, and she kisses his feet in adoration.

From the beginning, I'm sure Simon and the others around the table were a bit suspicious of this man Jesus, but now they are shocked. Simon reasons in his head: "If Jesus was a prophet, he would know what kind of shameful sinner this woman is and he would tell her to leave him alone."

Simon did not realize that he was a sinner; the woman knew that she was a sinner beyond any doubt. It was her awareness of her sin that made her aware of her need for Christ. The more we realize that we are sinners with no hope in ourselves, the more we will love Jesus.

The more we realize how much of a debt we owe to Christ, the more we appreciate all that he has done for us. And the more we will love Him because of what he has done.

How much do you love Jesus?

Verse A Week Club

"Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven--for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little."

Luke 7:47

HIDDEN VERSE WORD SEARCH #2

In the diagram, the words, phrases, and names listed below are hidden. They could be forwards, backwards, up, down or diagonally in the diagram. All of the words in the list comes from a certain book of the Bible. As you find them, shade in the letters you use (some letters will be used as part of more than one name). There will be 28 unused letters, and they will spell out a verse from this week's mystery book. See if you know the book and can find the hidden verse in the book after you spell it out. Also see if you know where all the items in the list can be found in this book. (All entries are from the NIV.)

BIRDS
BOASTING
BROTHERS
BUT DOING IT
EVERY
GLORIOUS
HEAVENLY LIGHTS
HIS LOW POSITION

HUMBLE
MERCY TRIUMPHS
NOBLE
OLIVES
ORPHANS
PRIDE
RELIGIOUS
ROYAL LAW

SCRIPTURE
TAKE NOTE OF THIS
THE WORD OF TRUTH
THEIR CORROSION
TOMORROW
TONGUE
VANISHES
WISDOM

N	O	I	S	O	R	R	O	C	R	I	E	H	T
O	M	I	W	A	L	L	A	Y	O	R	V	H	A
I	S	E	W	W	I	S	D	O	M	B	E	I	K
T	C	L	R	V	L	R	S	H	O	W	R	V	E
I	R	O	E	C	W	E	Y	A	O	O	Y	A	N
S	I	S	U	S	Y	H	S	R	W	M	Y	N	O
O	P	F	A	B	U	T	D	O	I	N	G	I	T
P	T	I	T	M	I	O	R	P	H	A	N	S	E
W	U	H	B	N	F	R	I	I	R	B	Y	H	O
O	R	L	G	T	O	B	B	R	U	I	W	E	F
L	E	H	R	M	A	B	T	I	O	M	D	S	T
S	S	U	O	I	G	I	L	E	R	L	P	E	H
I	T	T	O	N	G	U	E	E	D	O	G	H	I
H	E	A	V	E	N	L	Y	L	I	G	H	T	S

The answer, and a new puzzle, will be in the bulletin next week. (Last week's hidden verse: Son of man, I have made you a watchman, EZEKIEL 3:17, 33:7)

- Mark W. Garner

Family Information

Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is in need of the following:
Vegetable soup, dry milk (1 qt), crackers, rice.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed for the coming year to serve at the Faith Mission Shelter for men. See Peg Williams or Vicki Cage for details. Further information is posted on the bulletin board.

COCS Holiday Gift Shop

COCS will be having a Holiday Gift Shop again this year for our students to buy Christmas gifts for their families. If your children do not attend COCS, but would like to participate, you are invited to bring them to shop on Tuesday December, 19 from 3:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. There will be more information later or you may call the school office.

Food Pantry

The food pantry is in need of empty egg cartons. There is a man who is willing to donate eggs to the pantry but we need to supply the empty egg cartons to him.

Words To Ponder

The thought that God is present everywhere is staggering. But to be aware of His presence in times of need brings comfort and hope.

Verse Of The Day Ministry

Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 am
Sunday Worship Service	10:30 am
Sunday Evening	5:30 pm
Wednesday Evening	7:00 pm

Elders: Wilbur Allen, Frank Chappell, Roy Estep, Gene Prince, Ray Thorne
Deacons: Brian Arnold, Tom Barnhardt, John Bradley, Lynn Champney, Darrell Estep, Jack Evans, Don Gillespie, Lou Lawrence, Jack Mauersberg, Beryl McMasters, Mark Morris, Charlie Yates
Youth Minister: Bobby Graham
Evangelists: Mike Hipes, Tom Barnhardt

Calendar

December

- 17 Winter Adult Bible Classes Begin
- 17 50's Plus "Eat Out Sunday"
- 17 Teen's Christmas Party At Estep's
- 20 50's Plus Meeting
- 22 Christmas Caroling At Hipes's
- 24 No Bible Classes-No Junior Worship
- 31 Regular A.M. Schedule Resumes
- 31 Area Wide P.M. Worship At Reynoldsburg

COCS

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Contributions

Last Week	\$5681	Avg YTD	\$5599
Russia	\$195	Avg YTD	\$258
Youth Min.	\$395	Avg YTD	\$316

A Prayer For The Family

(Based On Colossians 1)

Dear Father,

I approach You Father to thank You for my family at Northland. I have seen their faith in Christ, Lord and I have intimate knowledge of their love for the saints. This faith and love comes from the hope You have given us all in heaven. The privilege You have so graciously bestowed on us of being able to one day look into the eyes of our Redeemer and to thank Him so humbly for rescuing us from the dominion of darkness, and so gently placing us in the light that when we are called to give an account for the things we've done, we have no fear because Jesus has paid our debt and we are free from accusation.

God I pray now that You will help us to continue in our faith; to not be moved from the help held out in the gospel, that we can be granted the strength to endure until we are called home.

Dear God, that we would draw closer to each other as a body to form that cord that can not be broken. Help us to be worthy of the blood that Jesus so willingly shed on our behalf so that when that day comes, we won't be in a place where we have narrowly escaped the flames, but rather Father that we can run into your arms because we have built that relationship with You while we were on earth. Please fill us with the knowledge of Your will so that we can learn to please you more. Amen

From The Wednesday Women's Prayer Class

"And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God"

Colossians 1:10

Northland Church of Christ 4581 Cleveland Ave. Columbus, OH 43231 (614) 475-0161

N O R T H L A N D
Messenger

Volume 9, Number 51

December 17, 2000

Serving God

ON TOWARD TOMORROW

"Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:13-14)

"Far away there in the sunshine are my highest aspirations. I may not reach them, but I can look up and see their beauty, believe in them and try to follow where they lead."—Louisa May Alcott

The Bible encourages us to think ahead. I don't mean simply that we ought to make plans, set goals, or otherwise try to foresee that which we will face tomorrow, although all of that is good and wise. What I mean is that the Bible insists that we live today in anticipation of tomorrow, with a readiness for tomorrow, and in hope of what tomorrow will bring.

When in Hebrews 12:2, the writer tells us that Jesus endured the cross "for the joy set before Him," it has nothing to do with some joy of pain and dying while crucified. It has to do with what lay ahead. The writer urges us to learn the same lesson so that we will not grow weary and lose heart.

Do you know why people give up and quit, right in the middle of their faith walk with the Lord? Because they become too focused on today. The burden is too heavy and there is no prospect of it becoming lighter. The problems are too difficult, the answers too thin, and they become consumed with today.

Do you know why some churches fail; why they never seem to get off dead center, never grow, never accomplish anything worthwhile? It's because they cannot see anything better for tomorrow. Every day looks absolutely the same. They have no dream, no goal. There is nothing worth the effort it takes today to get to where they want to be tomorrow. They've planted their feet firmly in the mud of right now.

There is only one thing that can move us to live today in any sort of productive fashion, and that is the idea, the thought, the dream of tomorrow. I can learn something today that will help me be a better person tomorrow. I can do something today and tomorrow I can reap the rewards and positive consequences of my effort. Whatever I sow in my life today, that is what I will reap tomorrow. If I want it to be good and enjoyable and fun and exciting and uplifting, or if I want it to be comforting and satisfying and joy-filled and rewarding, then I must look away from the past, avoid getting bogged down in today, and learn how to live toward tomorrow.

Paul's words to the Philippians are challenging! Forget the past. Don't make the mistake of simply living today. Understand that we're headed toward tomorrow. Let that idea shape your involvement in life and create in you a burning desire to make today count by its product tomorrow. We're reaching for something that is both beyond us, yet close at hand. Let all your todays prove their value tomorrow.

Bill Denton

HIDDEN VERSE WORD SEARCH #3

In the diagram, the words, phrases, and names listed below are hidden. They could be forwards, backwards, up, down or diagonally in the diagram. All of the words in the list comes from a certain book of the Bible. As you find them, shade in the letters you use (some letters will be used as part of more than one name). There will be 28 unused letters, and they will spell out a verse from this week's mystery book. See if you know the book and can find the hidden verse in the book after you spell it out. Also see if you know where all the items in the list can be found in this book. (All entries are from the NIV.)

AMITAI
AT DAWN
DISPLEASED
DRY LAND
FIRST DAY
GREAT FISH
GREATLY FEARED
INSIDE

LIGHTEN
NINEVEH
NOBLES
OVERTURNED
PICK
PROVIDED A VINE
SACKLOTH

SENT A GREAT WIND
TARSHISH
THREE DAYS
THREW HIM
WHEN THE SUN ROSE
WORSHIP THE LORD
WORTHLESS IDOLS

S	L	O	D	I	S	S	E	L	H	T	R	O	W
P	E	L	E	G	R	E	A	T	F	I	S	H	O
R	M	N	D	E	D	I	S	N	I	T	E	N	R
O	I	Y	T	E	E	V	Y	E	R	N	I	Y	S
V	H	O	A	A	S	T	A	N	T	N	E	A	H
I	W	C	A	D	G	A	D	H	E	L	L	M	I
D	E	N	R	U	T	R	E	V	O	K	C	I	P
E	R	U	R	D	Y	S	E	L	B	O	N	T	T
D	H	G	A	L	U	H	R	A	P	E	N	T	H
A	T	W	A	N	T	I	H	I	T	S	L	A	E
V	N	N	R	Y	O	S	T	N	F	W	I	I	L
I	D	O	L	I	G	H	T	E	N	G	I	D	O
N	S	A	C	K	C	L	O	T	H	O	D	N	R
E	G	R	E	A	T	L	Y	F	E	A	R	E	D

The answer, and a new puzzle, will be in the bulletin next week. (Last week's hidden verse: *I will show you my faith by what I do.*, JAMES 2:18)
- Mark W. Garner

Family Information

Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is in need of the following: Vegetable soup, dry milk (1 qt), crackers, rice.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed for the coming year to serve at the Faith Mission Shelter for men. See Peg Williams or Vicki Cage for details. Further information is posted on the bulletin board.

Area Wide Worship

The Reynoldsburg Church of Christ will be hosting the area wide worship on December 31st. The time will be 6-7:30 p.m.. Directions are on the bulletin board.

A Dream

A man passed away and went to heaven. The Lord showed him around heaven and all the beauty and riches he gained. In the center there was a big warehouse. The man asked the Lord again, "What's in there?" The Lord said, "I wish you hadn't pushed me to show you." The Lord opened the warehouse and inside were packages, all beautifully wrapped. "Are all these mine?" the man asked. "No," the Lord replied. "These are all the blessings I had for you on earth, but you did your own things or forgot to lay down a day or a week on the altar and went your own way. They all added up. These are all the blessings you could have had."

Anonymous

Services

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am
 Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am
 Sunday Evening 5:30 pm
 Wednesday Evening 7:00 pm

Elders: Wilbur Allen, Frank Chappell, Roy Estep, Gene Prince, Ray Thorne
Deacons: Brian Arnold, Tom Barnhardt, John Bradley, Lynn Champney, Darrell Estep, Jack Evans, Don Gillespie, Lou Lawrence, Jack Mauersberg, Beryl McMasters, Mark Morris, Charlie Yates
Youth Minister: Bobby Graham
Evangelists: Mike Hipes, Tom Barnhardt

Calendar

December

24 No Bible Classes-No Junior Worship
 31 Regular A.M. Schedule Resumes
 31 Area Wide P.M. Worship At Reynoldsburg

Thank You

Larry and I would like to say a great big thank you for all the meals, cookies, cards and calls that we have received. This has been such a great help after my accident. I miss you all very much.
 Karen & Larry Bush

COCS

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Contributions

Last Week	\$4398	Avg YTD	\$5576
Russia	\$280	Avg YTD	\$258
Youth Min.	\$380	Avg YTD	\$317

NORTHLAND Messenger

December 24, 2000 Volume 9, Number 52



J. Allen
 "JOEL WENT INTO BETHLEHEM TO FIND ANOTHER JOB. HE WAS BORED AT SITTING OUT HERE WITH NOTHING EVER HAPPENING." SEE LUKE 2:8-15.

"And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

Luke 2:8-10

Serving God

Training in Righteousness

Part One

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Prov 22:6

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding." Prov 9:10

I want to begin this series of articles by simply stating that this is by *no* means a subject which I have mastered...it is *not* to be understood as a "seasoned veteran's" appeal. I have simply prayed to God for wisdom in dealing with my young children and He is revealing some elemental truths to me (James 1:5). There is a very good book which I will refer to often in this series entitled **To Train Up a Child**, which was suggested to me by several different individuals. It contains some good sound *Biblical* "horse-sense." I have studied and applied some of these principles, to great effect (with *much* yet to do). The Bible itself, of course, is our ultimate how-to book for life and should never have an inferior place in our search for wisdom to any other man-devised books. Having said all this, let me continue...

Training in righteousness is not merely a disciplinary action, often carried out when the stress becomes too great; it is the preparing of the child's heart and mind before a conflict or crisis arises. It should prepare them for future unquestioning obedience. Discipline is a tool in the great project. A hard principle for me to accept is that when my children are repeatedly disobedient or difficult, I (along with Papa, of course) also need to evaluate what I'm doing in shaping their attitudes. Am I facilitating this self-indulgent behavior? Has there been consistent (underline and circle "consistent") godly training? If you're like me, you often fall short of this consistency. An offense left unnoted one day may lead to a 10-minute tirade the next. A stray cat let in one out of every ten times will continually try to get in the back door. No matter how hard you kick at it, if it knows there's a possibility, it'll keep on trying.

We need to bring up our children as God brings us up— with patience, consistency, firmness and love. He is not soft on sin, nor should we be with our children. These children will eventually decide for themselves if they will follow God or not. Will they see God as a great big softie— one from whom they will attempt to get away with all they can? Or will they see him as an authority to obeyed the first time? Someone who loves them enough to set boundaries and rules for behavior?

Consistent, godly training is the foundation of raising godly children. I won't give out brand-new psychobabble or claim magical tips that you might find in Redbook or Good Housekeeping behind "101 Things to Make with Pineapple," but if you begin to see God's wisdom in action, you will definitely feel how "magical" the transformation in your house can be!

Thoughts and Challenges:

Start thinking about areas in which you are ill-tempered or inconsistent with your child(ren). Make a list and have your spouse do the same. How lovely to know that God does not rule us based on whims or fits but by his own Word and grace!

Prayers:

Begin praying to God for strength of resolve in these areas. Pray for wisdom. Do this every day this week. Then every day next week... :o)

-Linda Chivington

HIDDEN VERSE WORD SEARCH #4

In the diagram, the words, phrases, and names listed below are hidden. They could be forwards, backwards, up, down or diagonally in the diagram. All of the words in the list comes from a certain book of the Bible. As you find them, shade in the letters you use (some letters will be used as part of more than one name). There will be 29 unused letters, and they will spell out a verse from this week's mystery book. See if you know the book and can find the hidden verse in the book after you spell it out. Also see if you know where all the items in the list can be found in this book. (All entries are from the NIV.)

AGAINST
ANDRONICUS
BAPTISM
BRANCHES
BURIED
CIRCUMCISION
ETERNAL
JUDGMENT
NEARER

NEEDS
NO LONGER
NO ONE RIGHTEOUS
PEACE
POINT
RECEIVE A SPIRIT
RECONCILIATION
REMAIN

RESURRECTION
SINFUL NATURE
TASK
THE LAW
THE SPIRIT HELPS
WEAKNESS
WORKS
WRITTEN

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R R E R U T A N L U F N I S
E E O U B A P T I S M R U P
C S C O L S D S S E R O S L
O U L E J K F N W E E E U E
N R A S I U C I R T H R C H
C R U L W V D A H C C I I T
I E F I A R E G N O L O N I
L C C E T N I A M E R I O R
I T S A H R R T S E O D R I
A I K W E B U E T P N I D P
T O R N L P B T T E I T N S
I N O H A H S D E E N R A E
O O W I W E A K N E S S I H
N O I S I C M U C R I C M T
    
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The answer, and a new puzzle, will be in the bulletin next week. (Last week's hidden verse: Let everyone call urgently on God, JONAH 3:8)

- Mark W. Garner

Family Information

Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is in need of the following:
Vegetable soup, dry milk (1 qt), crackers, cereal.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed for the coming year to serve at the Faith Mission Shelter for men. See Peg Williams or Vicki Cage for details. Further information is posted on the bulletin board.

Area Wide Worship

The Reynoldsburg Church of Christ will be hosting the area wide worship this evening. The time will be 6-7:30 p.m.. Directions are on the bulletin board.

Thank You

A thousand thanks are extended to the many godly servants who operated in the forefront and behind the scenes to meet needs for food and shelter during the past crises associated with finding stable housing arrangements for my family. Then shortly afterwards, you became a strong source of comfort at the passing of my Mother. In deed, Jehovah God our heavenly Father is honored whenever his children come to each others aid. Your many prayers, friendly visits, loving hugs and gifts, and delicious meals continue to lift my spirits and those of my family.

Peggy Williams

Services

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am
Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am
Sunday Evening 5:30 pm
Wednesday Evening 7:00 pm

Elders: Wilbur Allen, Frank Chappell, Roy Estep, Gene Prince, Ray Thorne
Deacons: Brian Arnold, Tom Barnhardt, John Bradley, Lynn Champney, Darrell Estep, Jack Evans, Don Gillespie, Lou Lawrence, Jack Mauersberg, Beryl McMasters, Mark Morris, Charlie Yates
Youth Minister: Bobby Graham
Evangelists: Mike Hipes, Tom Barnhardt

Northland Church of Christ 4581 Cleveland Ave. Columbus, OH 43231 (614) 475-0161

Calendar

December

31 Regular A.M. Schedule Resumes
31 Area Wide P.M. Worship At Reynoldsburg

January

3 50's Plus Meeting
17 50's Plus Meeting
21 50's Plus "Eat Out Sunday"

Sympathy

We want to express our sympathy to Cindy Grafton at the death of her mother. The funeral was last Wednesday in Illinois.

We also want to express our sympathy to Sandy Treadway, a teacher at COCS, at the death of her mother. The funeral was last Wednesday in Massillon, OH. If you would like to send cards the address is: Don & Sandy Treadway, 244 Prince of Wales Dr., Gahanna, OH 43230

Contributions

Last Week	\$3482	Avg YTD	\$5536
Russia	\$190	Avg YTD	\$257
Youth Min.	\$315	Avg YTD	\$315

N O R T H L A N D Messenger

December 31, 2000 Volume 9, Number 53

The Secret Of Strength

"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint" (Isaiah 40:31).

Down through the centuries man has tended to shift the center of trust from the Almighty to himself, and the result has been weariness and weakness in every area of life. Consider:

- The Peril of Expended Strength.** *"He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength." (Isaiah 40:29)* It is usually after the expenditure of our strength that the devil scores his greatest victory. This may come about through the pressures of daily life and service, through battling the "powers of the world," or moral breakdown.
- The Principle of Exchanged Strength.** *"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength" (Isaiah 40:31).* The principle of the exchanged life is based upon that little word "wait"—waiting upon God in prayer and patience. Do you have a regular devotional period each day? Do you pray with an expectant spirit, believing that God will meet your need with His divine strength? Remember, *"those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength."*
- The Purpose of Employed Strength.** *"They shall mount up with wings like eagles" (v. 31).* Having given us strength, God wants to employ it for the three daily demands of the Christian life. We are to fly high in Christian experience; we are to run fast in Christian obedience, and we are to walk hard in Christian reliance. Only then can we live and serve for God's glory. This, then, is the secret of strength.

Give me strength dear Lord, I pray,
Strength to "fly, to run, to walk;"
Living, serving, day by day
In my work and in my talk.

Stephen F. Olford

Serving God

Training in Righteousness Part 2--A Disobedience License?

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

"Billy, I told you not to do that. Billy! Did you hear me? I said NO! (a little louder) If I have to come over there you'll get a spanking! (blood pressure rising) Billy! STOP IT!" Have you ever witnessed this scene (or let's be honest-- *done* this?) At the end of this little battle young Billy may or may not have received the deserved punishment, his mother's ire is up and he has effectively learned that disobedience is alright until mom's blood pressure and decibel level shoot up to a certain point.

Oh, Mom thinks that she won. Billy complied, eventually. It's the horrible culmination of the situation that caused her to boil over and swear to herself that she will never have another child! She had unwittingly trained her little boy that it wasn't necessary to obey until she reached this usual level. As Michael Pearl states in his book, **To Train Up a Child**, regarding a similar situation: "When the State Fish and Game Commission issues permits allowing you to catch five trout and no more, they are not preventing trout fishing; they are advocating it. The parents had issued their children a license to be disobedient five times, but punished them for the sixth offense. So every day the children went fishing for trouble, but always with an eye on the 'warden.' They would try to anticipate when to stop short of the real 'last chance.'"

The limit for disobedience must be reduced to zero. If the warden proves to be serious, swift and consistent, this young man will learn that it simply isn't worth it. What if police officers decided to threaten and shake fists at the speeding motorists instead of handing out fines? What if he pulled a reckless driver over simply to tell him how disappointed he was in his behavior, or give a person this same ultimatum five times: "I am not going to say it again! Next time it's a ticket!" There goes the law.

We cannot place the entire blame on our children when we ourselves train them that disobedience is only unacceptable after we get angry, threaten, plead and finally use force. Let us remember what God expects of us-- to train our children in the way they should go. If we continue to allow them to have no self-restraint, they will not likely grow into the godly young men and women we desire for them to be.

I have started to see this in action and it works! If you consistently and calmly apply discipline for first offenses, you will be amazed how you don't fly into that I'm-going-to-knock-you-somewhere level. The behavior is nipped in the bud (at least for now!) and harmony can be restored in the home.

Thoughts and Challenges:

I know for myself personal stress-related anger has been a factor in my discipline far too often. How about you?

Prayers: May God enable us to expend the initial energy to discipline calmly and quickly, which keeps the anger and volume from escalating.
-Linda Chivington

HIDDEN VERSE WORD SEARCH #5

In the diagram, the words, phrases, and names listed below are hidden. They could be forwards, backwards, up, down or diagonally in the diagram. All of the words in the list comes from a certain book of the Bible. As you find them, shade in the letters you use (some letters will be used as part of more than one name). There will be 32 unused letters, and they will spell out a verse from this week's mystery book. See if you know the book and can find the hidden verse in the book after you spell it out. Also see if you know where all the items in the list can be found in this book. (All entries are from the NIV.)

ARRIVE
BY NIGHT
CONFESS
CUPBEARER
ENTRANCE
EXILE
FAVOR
GESHEM
HORSE GATE

HOUSES
KING ARTAXERXES
LETTER
NEXT TO
PASEAH
PRIESTS
REBUILD
SOMEONE

SON OF HACALIAH
THE FEAST
THE KING'S POOL
THEY WILL ATTACK
TOBIAH
TOWER OF HANANEL
TRANS-EUPHRATES
WALLS

K	C	A	T	T	A	L	L	I	W	Y	E	H	T
T	I	R	E	R	A	E	B	P	U	C	H	O	R
T	E	N	P	S	T	S	E	I	R	P	W	U	A
H	E	O	G	T	P	C	O	N	F	E	S	S	N
E	M	L	E	A	H	E	W	E	R	O	R	E	S
K	E	R	K	E	R	E	N	O	E	M	O	S	E
I	H	A	I	B	O	T	F	T	D	W	I	L	U
N	S	T	H	A	R	H	A	E	S	A	P	L	P
G	E	L	L	A	A	G	V	X	A	T	O	A	H
S	G	H	N	N	E	I	O	I	E	S	T	W	R
P	E	C	A	S	R	N	R	L	I	R	T	R	A
O	E	N	R	R	H	Y	E	E	A	R	X	T	T
O	E	O	A	R	E	B	U	I	L	D	E	E	E
L	H	A	I	L	A	C	A	H	F	O	N	O	S

The answer will be in the bulletin next week. We hope you have enjoyed our traditional holiday puzzles. (Last week's hidden verse: *Our old self was crucified with him, ROMANS 6:6*)
- Mark W. Garner