

Faith Of Our Youth

October 1997

"The Voice of Young Christian Faith"

Volume 4 Issue 3

SHARING

by Dan Huff

Our parents taught us as youngsters how to share with others. They taught us to share with our biological brothers and sisters, with our friends, and with our enemies. They trained us to share our toys, our food, our kindness and our love.

Why did Dad and Mom teach us this principle?

1.) It was the right thing to do, because it was right in God's eyes.

"Therefore **"If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good"** (Romans 12:20-21, NKJ).

2.) It would allow those children that you were sharing your toys with to receive the same enjoyment that you received.

3.) It would show that you care for that child or friend. As a child your toys were important to you, they were valuable in your eyes.

As you've grown older, different things have, or should have, become more important to you, taking the place of the toys. Things that are more precious, and of greater worth,

(See "SHARING" on page 3)

Wisdom of our Elders

by Eldon Cox, Fern Vaughn, and Janie Green

JR High CLASS
OZARK Church of Christ
May 11, 1997

Dear Elder Christian,

Our Sunday morning class is about "making my life count." I want to build my life with meaning and purpose for God. You can help me by sharing the ways God has given meaning and purpose to your life. Thanks for your help.

Your Young Friends,

Joshua Scott

Ryan Scott

Eric Rogers

June 11, 1997

Dear Joshua,

As I get older it is so hard for me to understand how fast time goes by. It was May 11th when you wrote to me. Sorry.

(See "WOOE" on page 2)

inside...

Love the Lost
News & Notes
Songs of Praise
Huz and Buz
Songs of Our Youth

by John Morris page 2
by Dan Huff page 4
by Bradley Bratcher page 5
by Jessi C. Hunter page 5
by Amy Swearingin page 7

Love the Lost

by John Morris

There had been a long silence. Dr. Closser was again gazing out the window in one of his frequent meditative states, contemplating some philosophical notion that he would share with the class as soon as he remembered where he was. "Love we know nothing about; love we can't live without," was what his ponderings yielded this time. "Hmmm," I remember thinking, "half right. Love I can't live without. I think I know something about love, though."

Christians are of love! "You are of God, little children," John told the early Christians in I John 4:4, and "God is love" (I John 4:8,16). God manifested His love by sending Jesus Christ to die for transgression, and by accepting that love, we were born of God (John 1:14)—born of Love, if you will. Our very birth into spiritual enlightenment was the direct result of love! And, not only is love our origin, but by divine statute—"You shall love the LORD your God..." (Matt. 22:37), "You shall love your neighbor..." (Matt. 22:39), "...love one another" (I Jn. 4:11)—it is a part of our nature. Yes, I think we know something about love.

With this knowledge comes responsibility, the responsibility to tell others about it. After all, "love is not love until it's given away." Consider what God did. Such was the loving nature of God that He could not look upon the condemned state of humankind, and not take action to halt the digression. Humankind was on a highway to Hell and desperately needed an off ramp! God provided one. "In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him" (I Jn. 4:9). Why did He bother? Because, "the Lord is...not willing that any should perish..." (II Pet. 3:9). That is the will of God! That is the will of Love—life to those in death! If we are truly of God, then we are bent upon the salvation of the lost, just as He is.

I'll never forget when, four years ago, my anthropology instructor (who had many times ridiculed Scripture and even chided me openly because of my faith) stated that, world around, people feel a need for something to worship. They will seek all their lives, he said, to find something to fulfill this need. He, of course, thought of this as nothing more than some queer psychological need spawning from tens of thousands of years of human supremacy, and, as such, could be satisfied by any number of things. He and I agreed about the need, but certainly not about the answer.

(See "LOVE" on page 3)

(Continued from page 1)

It sounds to me like you had some good instruction that Sunday morning as you studied Psalms 127. You asked me to share with you the ways God has given meaning and purpose to my life.

Joshua, there are so many ways. I only hope in some way I can impress upon your mind, early in life, to look for the way God would have you live. I Samuel 3:10; Ecclesiastes 12:1. I can remember before I accepted Jesus as my savior, having the desire to be close to God. To help you understand this think about your parents and how you feel about them.

Joshua, I realize all things come from God, including our parents, things we enjoy in life, food, pets, flowers, sunshine, rain, knowledge, health and so many things: Everything is from God. There are so many blessings that I know can only come from God. This are a few of the ways God has given Meaning and Purpose to my life. He also sent His only begotten Son to live and die that I might have hope beyond this life. John 3:16-19.

Some verses that have helped me are Philippians 4:8; Colossians 3:12-17; Philippians 4:13 & 4:11.

Hope this helps you, thanks for asking. May God bless you and yours.

Your friend,

Eldon L. Cox

Nixa Church of Christ

May 14, 1997

Dear Ryan,

Thank you for your interesting and thoughtful letter! I am pleased to give you some thoughts from my own life experiences; but first I want to commend you and your entire class, and your teacher for thinking seriously and studying Bible passages so that you might better understand "why" and "how" to give meaning and purpose to individual lives.

Ryan, I am 80 years old, a mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. I have been there and done that.

(See "WOODE" on page 4)

"LOVE" (Continued from page 2)

Our God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob can fulfill this need, and He alone! In Eccl. 3:11, Solomon said that God "...put eternity in their hearts..." speaking of humankind. God put a part of Himself in His creation to provoke it to seek Him. In other words, *we were meant to be addicted to God.*

"It is for any who will hear, and is not for us to decide who should hear. We dare not deny someone truth because we're sure they wouldn't listen."

We were created in His image, made to fear Him and obey Him (Eccl. 12:13). Compliance with these requisites will satisfy any emptiness experienced by anyone. Anything else will only bring more emptiness. So, the question lies before us. Since "we are the only Bible the careless world will read" (Sacred Selections, song 512), what are we doing to help others fulfill their need? "There's a message true and glad for the sinful and the sad," and we've already received its blessings (song 282). Let's "Ring it out" for the world to hear.

Have you made love your song?

Do you sing it all day long?

And if that song rings in your ear,

Do you sing so that lost souls may hear?

In *Sacred Selections For the Church*, song 92, James Rowe wrote:

"O let us spread the word where'er it may be heard,

Help groping souls the light to see,

That yonder none may say,

*You showed me not the way,
you never mentioned Him to me.
You never mentioned Him to me.
You helped me not the light to see.
You met me day by day
and knew I was astray,
Yet never mentioned Him to me."*

What a horrific scene. To think that someone who might have considered the way of truth was denied the opportunity because of another's lack of love. Do we intend to take as many people to Heaven with us as we can, or are we content taking care of "number one?" I've heard it said that anyone who's willing to go to Heaven alone probably isn't going. Food for thought.

As a final consideration, approach evangelism with confidence. We have all been given the responsibility, and God does not give us tasks that He doesn't equip us to handle. Competence has never been an issue with God, only faithfulness. John E. Hines wisely stated that "Preaching is effective as long as the preacher believes something can happen--not because of the sermon, not because of the preacher, *but because of God.*"

Amen! Let us never forget that. The "...gospel of Christ is the power of God" (Rom. 1:16). It is not a bedtime story, a well-written fantasy novel, or even a profound, insightful fable. It is power, saving power, the only *real* power in the world.

It is for any who *will* hear, and is not for us to decide who *should* hear. We dare not deny someone truth because *we're sure* they wouldn't listen. We haven't the ability to make that call. "Life is God's novel. Let Him write it." We'll plant, we'll water. God will give the increase. May God bless as we endeavor to spread His "Wonderful Story of Love" (song 276).



Member of

Lee's Summit Church of Christ

"SHARING" (Continued from page 1)
you now hold dear in your life.

1 Corinthians 13:11 - "When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things" (NKJ).

"The law of Your mouth is better to me than thousands of coins of gold and silver" (Psalms 119:72, NKJ).

Ps 119:162 - "I rejoice at Your word as one who finds great treasure" (NKJ).

In the United States, where we have been so richly blessed, we probably would not find a person who was dying from thirst, because of lack of water. In other countries not as fortunate as we are there are many who die from a lack of water. If possible, who of you would not share, or give a glass of cold water to

**"Everyone needs Jesus!
How often do we share
Jesus with our neighbors,
our friends, those at
school, or our fellow
co-workers?"**

a friend, or an enemy who was "dying of thirst?" They have been out in the heat which has dried up and depleted the water and minerals they need to live. If something is not done to replenish what they have lost, they will die. We look upon such a person with pity, mercy, and compassion. We want to help them, don't we?

Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, wrote, "Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law" (Romans 13:8, NKJ).

What about the many souls who are among the living, yet dead? Many don't realize that they are dead without Christ, the Source of life, the Living Water.

"... Jesus stood and cried out, saying, 'If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink'" (John 7:37, NKJ).

(See "SHARING" on page 4)

