

# PSYCHOLOGY FOR LIVING

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1996

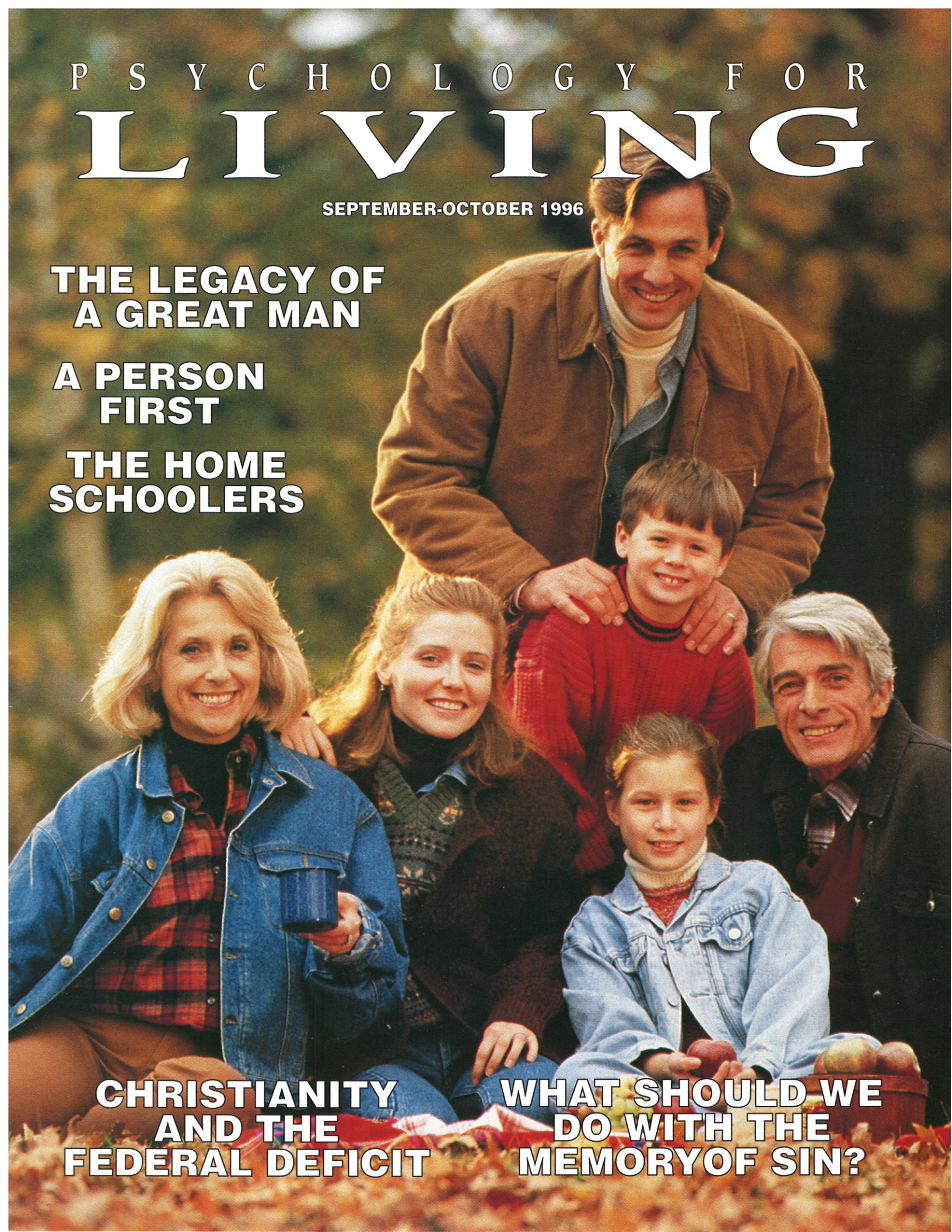
**THE LEGACY OF  
A GREAT MAN**

**A PERSON  
FIRST**

**THE HOME  
SCHOOLERS**

**CHRISTIANITY  
AND THE  
FEDERAL DEFICIT**

**WHAT SHOULD WE  
DO WITH THE  
MEMORY OF SIN?**





# A PERSONAL WORD

by Clyde M. Narramore

## STAND UP AND BE COUNTED!

**N**OT LONG AGO while chatting with my neighbor, he asked if I felt apprehensive about what was taking place in America. "I surely do," I replied. "How about you?"

He then shared how concerned he was for our nation. "It seems to me," he said, "that we've slipped terribly even during the past five years. And I see signs that our downhill trend is going to accelerate. If it does, I wonder how it's all going to end up." This man was not a believer, but he was a decent, upright citizen with high moral standards.

I told him that I shared his feelings. **Conditions have sunken to such a terrible low that we can hardly think of any sinful thing but what many people would believe it was a good idea and would push it 100 percent!**

Take for example, these so-called "same-sex marriages." The Bible calls the homosexual lifestyle an abomination, but there are many heterosexuals who go along with it.

The other evening our family, along with our three-year-old grandson, were watching a seemingly innocent television show. Suddenly, one of the characters started using profanity. As I snapped the television off, I thought, *This is not only bad for my grandson, but it is harmful for all of us—including me.*

I was raised on a cattle ranch in Arizona. There was a lot of hard work to be done and we each had our share of rough, tough jobs to handle. Our father had died, but there were six of us brothers who kept things going. Yet, in all those years while growing up, I never heard one profane or filthy expression pass from my brothers' lips. We grew up in a community where we were never subjected to moral or verbal filthiness. But today, if one is not extremely careful, he can hear a world of dirty, obscene talk in just one half-hour of television. And radio is just as bad or worse. To say nothing of the smut on the printed page, videos, films, and on-line computer services such as the Internet!

What can we do? A person with a pat



solution might just say, "Well, turn off the TV."

We do have that prerogative. But that's not the whole answer. Secular thinking and godless behavior pervades nearly every aspect of our lives. Whether we're shopping at the supermarket, pumping gas at the service station, talking with neighbors, or whatever, there seems to be a built-in secular attitude pervading everything around us.

**God's Word says that as believers we are to be both salt and light.** In Matthew 5:13 Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth...." In other words, by being salt, we are a preservative and a purifier. In verse 14 Jesus goes on to say, "You are the light of the world." As light, we are to combat the darkness of society and point the way to the Light of the World, Jesus Christ. And it's amazing how much darkness a little light will dispel. One can stand in an auditorium with all the lights off. It is completely dark. But light a tiny little match and it can be seen from every corner of the room.

There was a time when many Christians felt that about all they had to do was to separate themselves from society. They felt they could withdraw and somehow avoid a sinful culture. Today, we know better. True, we are to keep ourselves "unspotted from the world" (James 1:27), but we are also expected to

stand up and take a Christian position in a darkened, decaying world.

In just a few weeks, an important national election and many state elections are coming up. **It's our Christian responsibility to vote.** But it's important that we be versed on the issues; we must have ample knowledge of the candidates and know what they stand for. Then, as we go to the polls, we must vote for those who support the Christian principles upon which our nation was founded. If every Bible-believing Christian were to do his civic duty, it could impact the downward spiral of America and get our nation back on track by voting the godless people out, while putting men and women who fear God in office.

Friend, we have reached the point in our national life that we can no longer sit comfortably on the sidelines and expect unsaved political leaders to take office and do God's will. It just doesn't work that way! "The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (I Corinthians 2:14). We are wise, indeed, if we vote for men and women who, along with their spouses, honor Christ and obey God's commands.

Only yesterday a woman said to me, "Well, of those two candidates, neither one really meets my standards."

"You may be right," I replied, "Neither one satisfies me completely, either. But it's plain to see that one is much less objectionable than the other."

**This is no time for God's people to give up!** We should speak out and encourage others to do the same. There are many who are on the fence. Often they are uninformed about the real issues and what is involved. By taking a strong stand, we can influence their choices.

God has blessed our nation in the past, and He wants to bless it in the future. But we need to do our part. **Indeed, you and I must stand up and be counted!!**

*Clyde M. Narramore*



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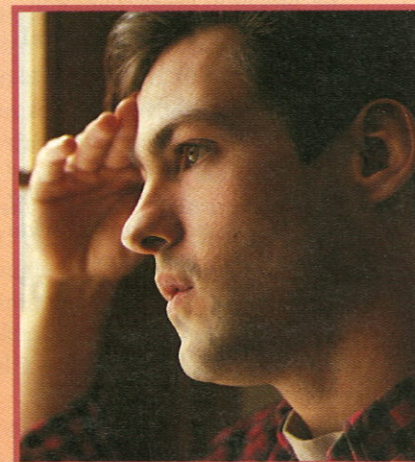


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## TO THINK ABOUT

by Ruth E. Narramore

**T**HERE IS NOTHING more pure or precious than a newborn baby. The sinful nature that he has inherited from his parents has not yet developed or become manifest. That little newborn isn't laden with characteristics such as malice, hypocrisy, and envy. He is innocent and without guile. And since he has not yet learned to talk, there is no "evil speaking" coming out of his mouth; he does not tell falsehoods or say hateful things. His major interest is in getting fed. He craves his nourishing milk dinner. And when he doesn't get it, he cries for it. Why? Because he needs it to grow and stay healthy.

God often tells us that we are to become as little children. He wants us to trust Him as a child would trust—implicitly, in simple faith. (See Luke 18:16, 17.) In fact, God goes so far as to say that we ought to be like newborns.

In I Peter 2:1 and 2, the Apostle writes, "Therefore, laying aside all malice, all

guile, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the Word, that you may grow thereby...."

In other words, if we are to be pure in our motives and attitudes, we must rid ourselves of "malice, guile, hypocrisy, envy, and evil speaking"—and be as a newborn baby would be. Our thoughts and drives need to be directed toward "the pure milk of the Word" so that we may grow in the Lord. This is God's plan for us.

It is possible to read the Word with all its potential for life-giving spiritual nourishment without receiving the benefit that we ought to derive from it. It's not the fault of the Word. Scripture is the "pure milk" and is loaded with "spiritual vitamins." So what is the problem?

The problem is the



garbage that we are harboring in our hearts that is polluting our lives. This pollution does not allow the "pure milk" to bring us the benefits it was meant to give.

When we are laden with anger, guilt, hypocrisy, envy, along with impure thoughts and evil speaking, we lose the desire for the "pure milk of the Word." And although we may dutifully partake of it, it becomes so diluted by that which has poisoned our minds and our souls that we are unable to get the full benefit from God's wonderful Word.

The insidious part of this scenario is that we may not even realize we are hostile (angry), or hypocritical, or envious. These and/or other undesirable traits have crept up on us so gradually that we are unaware of them. They may even have begun in our

childhood. Persons who live with us know we have problems, but we do not recognize them in ourselves. Yet, they are there nonetheless, and are preventing us from desiring the Word and developing spiritually.

That's where Christian counselors are often able to help. By directing us to the root of our problems, with God's help we are able to lay aside the "malice, guile, hypocrisy, envy" and improper thoughts. Only then can we approach the Lord's banquet table without being cluttered with these hindrances that prevent us from assimilating the nourishment God has provided for us.

As we are able to identify our unfit characteristics and "lay them aside," we can become as "newborn babes" who follow the biblical mandate to desire and partake of the unblemished food of God's Word. When we do this, we will grow and develop into the beautiful, happy, mature Christians that He would have us become. □

## WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

### MANY FOND MEMORIES

I always enjoy your *Letters Of Blessing, Psychology For Living, and Special Insight*. I also have many fond memories of the four tours I took with you. You are both such an inspiration to so many.

Borgitta Seelig  
Mount Dora, Florida

### WHAT HAPPENED TO THE REFERENCES?

Recently I re-read a Malachi reference you had mentioned in one of your letters some time back, and I was blessed. Doesn't the

Foundation note references on their letters anymore?

Many thanks for all your good work.

A.M. Coyne  
Bronx, New York

*Editor's note: We usually do, but not always. Thanks for reminding us.*

### THERE IS A BETTER WAY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow! I am much better and some day want to write to you and say some things about depression. My heart goes out to depressed

people who have no alternative except drugs and shock treatments. There is a better way, and I'd like to tell the world!

Harvey Richmond  
Los Gatos, California

### GAINED STRENGTH AND MANY INSIGHTS

We attended one of your seminars years ago when we were having problems with one of our sons, then a prodigal. We gained much strength and many insights which have helped us to this day.

We will be semi-retiring (at ages 68 and 61) and moving

from North Carolina to Texas to be near some of our children. We will also be attempting to find some sort of employment to help meet modest living expenses. It will be a long trip ahead with each of us driving an older car some 1,250 miles. We'll also have our two pet cats traveling with us. We're looking to God for traveling mercies.

We are so grateful for all the help and encouragement you've given to us and so many others. We want to thank you.

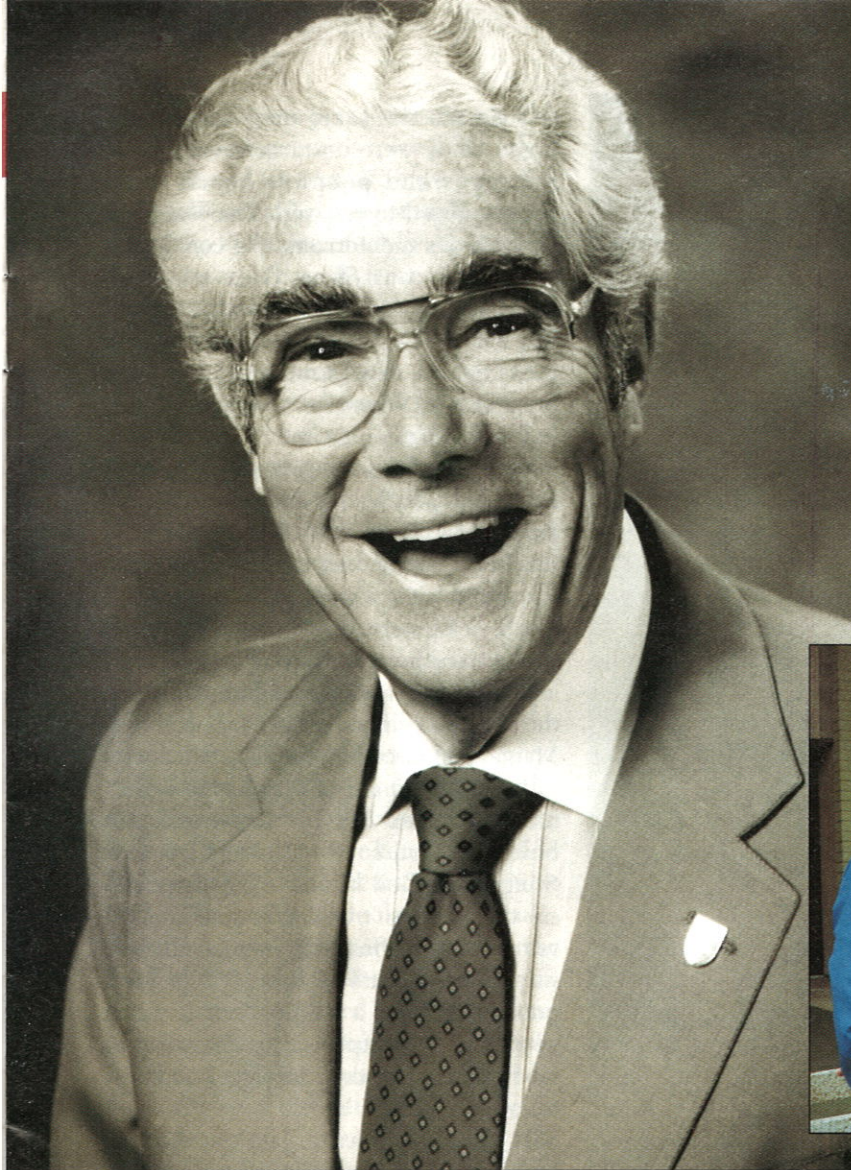
Fred and Darlene Randall  
Durham, North Carolina



# THE LEGACY OF A GREAT MAN

A look back at the early years of ministry with God's servant, Jack Wyrzten

by Ruth Elliott Narramore



Jack and Joan Wyrzten with Ruth and Clyde Narramore.

SOMETIMES GOD ALLOWS a special person to encounter our lives whose influence will leave an indelible impact for years to come. Jack Wyrzten was just such a person in my life.

I was sixteen, a senior in Richmond Hill High School in Queens, Long Island, and about to graduate in a few weeks. Then one day someone got word to my parents that Jack Wyrzten would like to hear me play my trumpet.

I had no idea who Jack Wyrzten might be, but he lived in Woodhaven not far from our home. My parents had heard that he was a young man in the insurance business who was on fire for the Lord. When he wasn't at the office, he was preaching, and God was blessing his ministry. They encouraged me to follow through on Jack's request.

When I got to Jack's house I met his wife, Marge, and his beautiful little three-year-old daughter, Mary Ann. Bill Wyly, a member of Jack's team, was there with his trumpet, and Jack had his

trombone. Jack opened a hymnbook and asked me to play the lead part on a hymn called, "Jesus Will." We ran through it once or twice, and Jack announced that he would like me to go with them to play at a meeting the following night. I did—and that was the beginning.

There were two young ladies who also went as a part of the team: Anne Lubkeman and Dot Duchardt. Anne and Dot were a duo. On the way home after that first meeting we were singing in the car as we rode along—and I harmonized with Anne and Dot putting in a third part. Jack's ears perked up and he decided that from then on, we would have a trio. In time, the brass trio grew into a brass quartet, and the girl's trio became a girl's quartet. We were launched!

Soon we were ministering in churches, rescue missions, street corners, schools—and anywhere Jack could arrange for a meeting. We played and sang, Jack preached, and God blessed! Night after night people came forward to be saved.

It was thrilling to be a part of a team that God was so obviously using for His honor and glory. For me, it was a growing time.

I was the "baby" of the group and was shy when around strangers. But there was nothing shy about Jack. He would often call on me to give a testimony or to play something on the spur of the moment—and I was embarrassed. When I told Jack, he just laughed his hearty laugh and said, "Ho! That's just what you need. I'm going to keep right on." And he did.

I used to feel silly when Jack would announce the brass quartet by saying, "Now the boys will play," and I would stand up with the three male members of the quartet. When I complained about it, Jack just laughed. I threatened that they would be minus a first trumpeter sometime if he kept doing this—but he didn't change and I never carried through with my threat.

The greatest impact Jack had on my life was spiritual. Here was a man who was completely sold out to the Lord, and





*Part of the early Word of Life Team: (l. to r.) Jack and Marge Wyrzten, Ruth Elliott (Narramore), Phil Worth, Anne Lubkeman, and Helen Cadwell.*

anyone on his team was expected to be the same. Now, I had been raised in a godly home—my parents were missionaries—and I had been well-taught. But sometimes it's helpful for a teenager when someone other than parents are impacting his or her life for Christ. This was how it was for me.

Jack shared the Lord with everyone—yes, everyone! He was a tremendous example. He gave tracts to people manning a toll booth, he witnessed to the service station attendant, to the waitress in the restaurant—and to anyone who came across his path. He encouraged the same of his team members. Shortly after I had joined the team we were at a meeting and Jack had spoken. After the service he called me over and said, "Ruthie, see that girl in the red coat? Well, she's under conviction but she didn't give her heart to the Lord. Go speak to her!"

"Who—me?" I was horrified at the prospect of searching her out in this way.

"Yes," said Jack, "and hurry before she gets away."

I knew I'd better do it because when we got in the car to go home, Jack would ask me how things went. There would be six of us in the car, and to tell Jack in front of the others that I had done nothing would be mortifying. So I sought the girl out and talked with her. The result was that she was indeed ready to accept Christ and I remained in contact with her to follow up and disciple her.

Because of what I learned from Jack, I became bolder and more skilled in my witnessing. During this time I was working in an office in the telephone company, and the Lord gave me the opportunity to lead a number of my associates to the Lord. Jack was my advisor and encourager.

As a teenager, several great lessons were impressed upon me. One was faith-

fulness. Every Thursday night there was a prayer meeting in Jack's home; all of the team members were expected to be there. There was no way we missed prayer meeting! Just because something came up that we might like to do was not reason enough. We'd have to be deathly ill or in the hospital to get out of prayer meeting. Jack regarded prayer as an essential part of the ministry.

Faithfulness also applied to our schedule of meetings. Just because you had a chance for a "big date" didn't let you off the hook. When something like that came up and you mentioned it to Jack, his answer was always a hearty, "Good! Bring him along!" If your date didn't have in mind going with Jack and the team for a meeting, that was just too bad!

Jack went anywhere he was invited to speak—big places, little places, unusual or strange situations—but he always got the message out. Since at that time he had a full-time job with the insurance company, on week nights our meetings were usually on Long Island or in the New York metropolitan area. On weekends we often ventured farther—New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, upstate New York, various New England states, or as far south as Washington D.C. After a meeting, Jack was always ready to eat, and he developed an uncanny ability to locate a Howard Johnson's. Often it was in the wee hours when we finally arrived home (much to my parents' consternation). But from my vantage point, late hours were never a problem. The Lord supplied me with His strength.

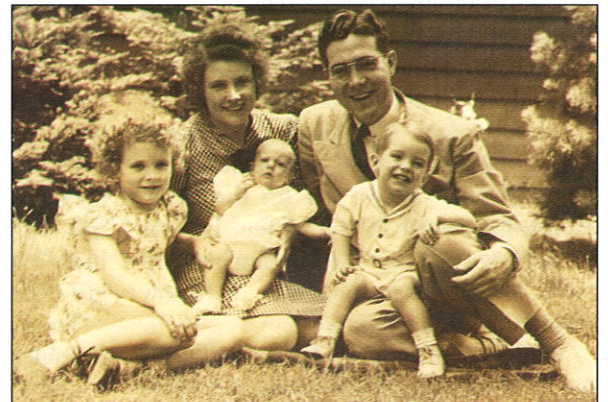
There wasn't much time for Jack to prepare new sermons,

so he gave the same ones night after night. They were on-target evangelistic messages and people's hearts were always moved to respond. The team had his sermons memorized. We could have given them ourselves. Once when we were teasing Jack about this, he told us, "As long as God is blessing and using a message to save souls, I'll keep on preaching it. When He no longer blesses it, I will no longer use it."

One of the characteristics I appreciated about Jack was his loyalty to his wife and family. (All five of his children are serving the Lord.) When you travel with people, you get to know what they are like. Marge was a sickly person and suffered a great deal with asthma. But Jack was thoughtful and patient. I never heard him make one derogatory remark either to, or about, Marge. I admired him for that.

Jack was a man of vision. He wasn't afraid to step out for the Lord. He believed God for bigger and greater things, and God blessed. This is not to say that he wasn't willing to start small. I remember the first radio station that we were on in downtown Brooklyn. It was a poor excuse for a studio—but it was a good learning experience. From there God opened the door to bigger and better opportunities.

It wasn't long before Jack got the idea that he'd like to hold Saturday night rallies. Since it was during World War II, the streets were filled with servicemen looking for something to do. Jack saw this as a challenge. The Gospel Tabernacle on 8th Avenue and 44th Street was available, and it was only two blocks from Times Square in the heart of New York City. The Word of Life Saturday night rallies were soon established and people came from all over New York, Long



*The Wyrzten Family: (l. to r.) Back row—Marge and Jack; Front row—Mary Ann, Betsy Lee, and Donnie John. Two other boys were born later.*



Island, and New Jersey to attend. The Lord blessed and souls were saved every week. It was at one of these Saturday night rallies that I met a young Navy lieutenant by the name of Clyde Narramore. Now—more than 50 years later—we have celebrated our golden wedding anniversary. No wonder we feel a soft spot in our hearts for Jack!

Jack's vision seemed to know no bounds. He rented the Hudson dayliner for periodic boat trips up the river—and filled it each time with 4000 passengers. The purpose? To win souls. There were rallies at Madison Square Garden, Yankee Stadium, and any mammoth location in the area that might be available. People flocked to get in, and many were turned away. There was no question but that God had His hand on this young man and was blessing his ministry.

Jack also had a vision for an interdenominational camp ministry. It began with a Labor Day weekend at a crude facility at Dorwillin near Suffern, New York. The buildings looked like made-over barns and chicken coops. But the Lord blessed, and Jack was off and running with the Word of Life Camp Ministry which he established at beautiful Schroon Lake, New York. There he planted several different camps and conference centers (some were more like resorts) to meet the needs of all age groups. To maximize the use of the properties, Jack started a Bible school that functioned during the winter months—snow and ice, and all! The harvest in lives was great.

Schroon Lake holds a special place in my heart for it was there that our daughter, Melodie, gave her life to the Lord. Melodie was five years old when we came to Schroon Lake for the beautiful garden wedding of Jack's oldest daughter, Mary Ann. Melodie was her flower girl. That Sunday morning as we sat in the tabernacle and heard Jack's opening message starting off the new week—which was always an evangelistic challenge—Melodie listened very intently. When Jack gave the invitation, Melodie raised her hand.

But Jack didn't stop at a camp ministry just in New York state. He began establishing them overseas—Brazil, Germany, Japan, England, and 32 other countries. Jack found and trained good people to carry the ball with these ministries. Today

(Continued on p. 9)

# A FOUR-LETTER WORD... W O R K

**The textbook on work is the Bible. People who understand and practice the Word of God know that work is the reason we are alive.**

*by Vernon C. Lyons*

**M**ANY AN EMPLOYEE is more interested in coffee breaks, holidays, vacations, and the retirement plan, than he is in productive work. Failing to understand that there is some connection between work and money, a person often wants more pay, but less work.

The employee who would not work five minutes past quitting time without expecting overtime pay, never expects to be docked for using work time for personal phone calls, socializing, or taking a long lunch.

It was Jerome Jerome who said, "Work fascinates me. I can sit and look at it for hours." And we all know the anticipation of effort is often more exhausting than the work itself. Goethe uncovered a secret when he wrote, "It is not doing the thing which we like to do, but liking to do the thing which we have to do, that makes life blessed."

I have always wondered why we call the first Monday of September Labor Day, and then no one goes to work! Happy is the man who loves to work. He who does not work cannot enjoy relaxation, for how do you rest from doing nothing? There are many who have put forth their efforts avoiding work, explaining why it should not be done, telling us that really someone else should be doing this, or that it can't be done. For some, begging, welfare, living on paternal dole, or fantasizing about the lottery has become a substitute for work.

**The textbook on work is the Bible.** People who understand and practice the Word of God know that work is the reason we are alive. Not only are we to work, but to do it with vigor, for the Scripture says, "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might" (Ecclesiastes 9:10). Even before there was sin, while Adam was living in Paradise, God put him in the Garden to "work it and take care of it" (Genesis 2:15). Jesus was known as "the carpenter" (Mark 6:3), and even Paul, the sophisticated intellectual, was a tent-maker (Acts 18:3).

**We need to revise our ideas about work and line them up with Scripture.** God commands that we should work six days in a week (Exodus 20:9), and a day is clearly defined as twelve hours (Matthew 20:1—16). Too much leisure breeds the social and moral problems that plague our civilization today.

The book of Proverbs has numerous passages on work and money. There we read, "Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth" (10:4). Also, "The sluggard craves and gets nothing, but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied" (13:4), and "he who works his land will have abundant food, but he who chases fantasies lacks judgment" (12:11). We are warned, "Do not love sleep or you will grow poor; stay awake and you will have food to spare" (20:13). We are advised to learn from the bugs: "Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider its ways and be wise" (6:6).

The New Testament is equally instructive: "He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands" (Ephesians 4:28). Paul indicates that he set an example for the believers by doing hard work (II Thessalonians 3:10).

Respectable work, producing worthwhile goods or services, will not only produce an adequate income, but will keep one out of mischief. It will keep a person from meddling in other people's business, and as a bonus, is good therapy as well. Psychiatrist Livingston Rasalam wrote, "If I can get a person's attention off of himself and onto some kind of helpful, productive work, I know that the patient is taking a step on the path to recovery." □

*Rev. Vernon C. Lyons has been senior pastor of the Ashburn Baptist Church in Chicago, Illinois, since 1951. Through the years he has also had a ministry in writing, radio and television.*





# THE HOME SCHOOLERS

Home schooling affords parents the privilege of fulfilling the biblical design by personally instructing the children God has entrusted to them.

*by Rebecca Pugh*

**M**Y HUSBAND AND I were married six years when our first child, Carmen, was born. She definitely represented God's greatest reward of our marriage to date. With her addition to our family, and four children since, we accept our parental responsibilities joyfully. Our children's new discoveries and developments are adorable to us. It is thrilling to see these little people learning, experimenting, and developing.

When Carmen was five, we helped her put sounds and expressions to letters, words and sentences. She also had an innate desire to keep track of her money. She learned to read and add that year. God began confirming this direction of education.

A Christian school gave us first grade materials. We tested the waters of home schooling, wading gradually by small steps into total commitment. It was exciting!

Khristi, our second daughter, was just as enthusiastic about learning. She wanted to do what Carmen could do, and she

did. "Pugh Academy" consisted of one in second grade and one in kindergarten.

## Why We Home School

There are several reasons why we decided to continue home schooling our children. During this period, while serving as home missionaries in Tennessee, we lived 45 minutes from the Christian school we preferred. Furthermore, limited finances made tuition payments impossible.

Two respected veteran public-school teachers offered encouragement that home education is an excellent option.

Finally, *I want* to teach our children.

Those first baby steps have led us into our seventh year of home education. This year we have three in school with two waiting (observing closely!) in the wings. Gwyn, my husband, teaches the family character class every day. I take care of academic areas of study. Home education should be a team effort. Both parents should share in teaching.

We operate our home academy similar to a conventional school. We have a daily schedule. Each child has an individual time slot for particular instruction. The others do seat work during one-on-one teaching.

The older children are given daily assignments and then periodic tests for records and evaluation. A teacher's record and assignment book keeps a sketch of projects, assignments and other events. The little ones have learned to have structured play. We function within guidelines set up for each person in our family.

## Home School Resources

A strong conviction has developed from our experience of home schooling. Home schooling may arguably be equated as the system which most ideally fulfills God's design for parents in His Word. Consider such passages as Deuteronomy 4:10; 6:7; 11:19 and 31:19.

Home schooling affords parents the privilege of fulfilling this biblical design



by personally instructing the children God has entrusted to them. According to the Home School Legal Defense Association, between 700,000 and one million students were home educated last year.

But parents are not only teaching their children for biblical reasons; they find that their children receive quality instruction from the individualized approach.

Parents do not have to feel alone or adrift exploring resources available to them. Institutions such as Advanced Training Institute of America, Bob Jones University, Christian Liberty Academy Satellite School, and Pensacola Christian College, to name a few, have wonderful materials and helps for parents.

Also, local communities have support groups that provide interaction with other home-schooling parents along with organized field trips and social activities. Resource personnel can help with extra skills teaching.

### Home School Advantages

Some wonder about the socialization aspect of home schooling. Is it limited? Some have said the best place for children to adapt to living is in a setting with varied age groups. The family provides this setting. One friend gave me a clever answer for the question about socializing with peers: "Name one good thing your friends taught you in school."

We live in a crowded neighborhood with plenty of worldly influence from children of all ages. The advantages of using the home setting for educating children outweigh any objections. What are some of those advantages? Parents teach their children their own convictions. Parents plan the school calendar. Parents decide what curriculum the children study. Parents explain every philosophy children could be exposed to within the context of biblical values and views. History and science are taught without reinterpretation or censorship of biblical values. (The principle of Exodus 12:26 is applicable here.)

### Before You Decide

There are several things parents should consider when making a decision to home school. First and foremost is the biblical mandate that parents teach their children. No one else can do this for them. Parents may delegate some instruc-

tion but not this responsibility as a whole.

There are usually three approaches: Parents may teach their children totally throughout their education; they can teach their children at home during the first few years and then send them to a school; or they may provide special learning activities in the home to supplement or complement the studies their children receive at school. Those who send their children to a private or public school must not sacrifice the concept of a family altar (i.e. gathering as a family for spiritual worship and instruction).

Self-motivation is a factor to consider in home schooling. The ability to live within a structured schedule is crucial. Parents must not be too biased in viewing their child's progress. Parent-teachers must identify their child's weaknesses and concentrate on helping them to improve. One-on-one teaching enables concentration where it is needed.

Likewise, time is not wasted on areas that are strengths in a child's progress.

### Legacy of a Great Man

*(Continued from p. 7)*

there is a beautiful facility in Florida that is "Holding Forth the Word of Life" (Jack's motto) for our southern population.

In all the years of Jack's ministry, he never wavered in proclaiming the pure, unadulterated message of the gospel. And he lived what he preached! He was a man of integrity: never was there even the slightest hint of scandal in his life. He was a person you could look up to and respect. Jack was a very positive person—hearty, happy, dynamic, fun-loving, and energetic. He wasn't given to moods. When things got rough, his solution to a problem was prayer.

It was a difficult time for Jack when in the wee hours on New Years Day, 1985, the Lord suddenly took his beloved Marge to heaven. But in 1986 God brought a lovely widow lady, Joan, into his life and they were married. She was a blessing and an encouragement to Jack.

Jack never forgot his old friends. Anyone who ever worked with Jack in any capacity will attest to this

Time can be spent in creative activities that enhance the learning experience. Research in state laws is imperative before launching this type of approach to education. In most cases, these are relatively few and simple.

Our family goal in home schooling is expressed in Daniel 1:4. We desire that Carmen, Khristi, Karyn, Daniel and Michael be children "...in whom is no blemish, but well favored, and skillful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge and understanding science, and such as have ability in them to stand in the king's palace."

We believe home schooling is a spiritual intensive care unit which equips our children to excel for God's kingdom. Every Christian parent's goal should be to pass on a heritage of godly principles to future familial generations in a world that so desperately needs to turn its heart toward home. □

*Mrs. Rebecca Pugh and her family live in Millington, Tennessee, where her husband pastors the Liberty Free Will Baptist Church.*

fact. Harry Bollback who began in those early days as Jack's teenage pianist, remained in the ministry and in time became co-director of Word of Life. Jack was a great man—a firebrand for Jesus. He touched many, many lives...and I shall be eternally grateful for his godly influence upon my life.

On Wednesday, April 17, 1996, the Lord called Jack "Home" to be with Him. He was almost eighty-three, still traveling and speaking across America, and indeed, around the world! Now, as God presents Jack with the dazzling crown that he forged during his lifetime, the words, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant" are undoubtedly reverberating throughout the golden streets of heaven. □



*The original brass trio: (l. to r.) Bill Wyly, Ruth Elliott (Narramore), and Jack Wyrtzen.*



# A PERSON FIRST

When we become free enough to see others as persons first, we run into a major problem, and the problem is self.

by Joan Jacobs

**Y**EARS AGO our daughter, commenting on the ever-current subject of men's and women's roles in our society, said that we had raised her to be a person first, and a woman second. That was her experience—one of those "caught, not taught" values we quite unconsciously pass on to our children. To be a person first and a woman second released her to a certain freedom, the kind of freedom that can enrich all of us who are in Christ.

What if (an intriguing "if!") we who belong to Jesus Christ were to believe that our primary identification is a person—not a man or a woman, not married or single, or divorced, not a conservative or a liberal. A person—not Anglo-American, Vietnamese, African-American, or Latino, but a human being before God with all of the hopes and fears that are common to us all.

What would it be like if we first saw each other as Abraham Lincoln did when he spoke of us as equal? He meant equal before God. In that respect we would be seeing the way God sees, God who looks "not on the outward appearance but on the heart" (I Samuel 16:7). The Apostle Paul, at the height of a passionate outpouring of his concern for the Church, wiped out our man-made distinctions. "There is no such thing as Jew and Greek, slave and freeman, male and female; for you are all one person in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28).



In the freedom that would come if we shared the Apostle's conviction, we would be obedient to the command of Jesus not to judge, and good things would come of it.

Judgments leap within us (in spite of our best intentions) when we see someone whose skin is a different color. Not long ago I was in line at a store. The person behind the counter was a rather swarthy woman and the person in front of me was the same color, and elderly. I was dismissive. Then these women identified each other. The clerk was from a troubled area of the Philippines, and the customer had served at that place with our armed forces

as a WAAC. I was ashamed of my attitude.

The Apostle also wrote of "slave and free." When it comes to judgments about social and economic status, we Christians may be no better than our unbelieving neighbors.

Recently our four-and-a-half-year-old grandson and I took a bus ride as a way of spending a few hours—he was still tired after an illness, and I, too, lacked energy. As we left the terminal he was thrilled, enthusing to the driver and the one other passenger about his first bus trip. At the first few stops he ranged from back to front, changing seats. Then a man with dirty clothes, a very heavy, oddly dressed woman, and a man with one leg and a crutch boarded. Soon a wheel chair person came on using the special apparatus at the rear of the bus. A



young woman with a tiny baby helped to diffuse the new atmosphere. But by that time my little grandson was practically sitting on my lap. A man with no legs pulled himself into the bus and demanded the seats we were using at the very front. Later my grandson and I talked about not having enough money for a car, or not being able to drive one, and how we all have to get places. It was also a renewed lesson to me, this diversity of people who (wherever we live in this world) are our neighbors.

If we could move into the Apostle's lesson on "neither male nor female," the Church would be a better place. The Holy Spirit would not be hindered in the giving of gifts. In our church congregation there is a quiet man whom God has used to bring other men together in a new intimacy, and his wife oversees the development of the church budget and the emphasis on stewardship. In many of the families we know—next generation down—Dads and Moms both change the baby's diapers, give the children their baths, cook and do the cleaning. Moms nearly all work full- or part-time, mostly out of economic necessity, but sometimes, because a career is satisfying. Some know the stress of job changes. In the complicated situations of our lives today, rigid gender roles are not always practical.

When we become free enough to see others as persons first, we run into a major problem, and the problem is self. When we no longer focus on others with our judgments and categories, we are forced to look at who *we* are, at the person we are inside. At heart I am not a comfortable woman who just hit seventy. Even with fine family support, I am a world of interests that sometimes conflict, of thoughts that are not always worthy, of unfulfilled dreams, of questions raised about God. The light

of Jesus beckons me on, warms my life, lifts me with hope, but in the good company of our Apostle, I have *not* arrived.

To see the reality of one's inner world can be disturbing, even frightening, certainly humbling, and above all, a clarion call to God for help. We don't see how much we need God until we see who we are, and we avoid seeing that by concentrating on other people. Busy comparing ourselves with others, we throw up a smoke screen that blinds us to our shallow walk with the Lord. This is not God's way. The Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthian Christians telling them that "they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise" (II Corinthians 10:12).

The way to success for any of us is to be willing to take a look inside. When we have done this, we must accept what we find. God knows us and He accepts us. A home for God in our hearts where the Holy Spirit can move about freely depends on our willingness to live there, too. With our acceptance and our confession to God, will come the release and peace we need. Perhaps we will need to talk to someone about what we find—a friend who will not turn away, a pastor whom we sense is trustworthy. Possibly we will find that we need help from a professional Christian counselor. Sometimes our inner world is a wilderness through which we cannot move without proper help.

Our call is to look beyond what we see superficially about others and to take responsibility for ourselves, wherever we are in life, and to do it with the same grace and compassion that God has for us all. □

*Joan Jacobs is a published author and free-lance writer. She and her husband, the Rev. Marvin Jacobs, live in Seal Beach, California.*

# WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH THE MEMORY OF SIN?

God forgets...but allows us to remember.

by Vincent Taber

**I** WAS SHOCKED when my good friend Ernie walked into my office and blurted out, "I'm no good. I never was, and I never will be!"

Why would a person who was held in such high esteem, who had accomplished more than most people do in a lifetime, who demonstrated a compassionate and giving heart and an unquestionable devotion to Christ, think this way about himself? I decided to ask in not so many words, "Ernie, what's eating you?"

Ernie had passed his seventieth birthday and was semi-retired. On this particular morning he had spent several hours in his make-shift basement office sorting

through personal artifacts, many holding for him still poignant memories of years past. And that was the problem. Surrounding him were reminders of personal failures ... of tasks left unfinished ... of past indiscretions ... and, yes, even blatant and willful acts of disobedience to the God he loved and had served faithfully.

The shock I experienced at Ernie's lament had more to do with my high regard for him as a person rather than the more obvious truth that what Ernie had said about himself is true of all of us, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). His lan-

guage may have been a bit too strong (certainly in that moment he had lost sight of the great redemptive truths of God's Word), but the struggle of dealing with the memory of sin was real and brought home the fact that even the most seasoned of saints can fall into despair when such memories want to live.

This is the point of our question. Since sinning is a universal condition, we all live with memories of specific sins. These memories, like Ernie's, can be triggered by external catalysts, or we may find them lingering about the corners of our minds for no apparent reason. They can become obsessive and oppressive. They can steal



away our peace. They can cause us to question our assurance before God. They can lead to debilitating, self-deprecating thoughts. They can become the instigation of a downward spiral that leads to discouragement and despair. They can bury us under a heavy weight of guilt and shame. When in the hands of the enemy of our soul, they have the power to paralyze and immobilize our lives.

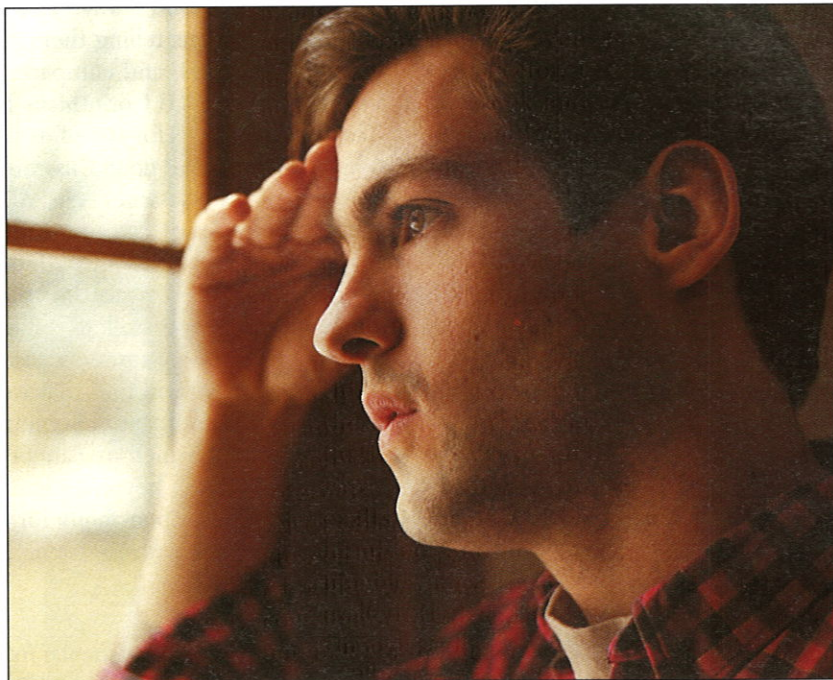
We are vulnerable to these memories for many reasons. For one thing, most memories of this kind are impregnated with considerable pain. The memories themselves are difficult enough to think about without feeling the sense of injury to God, to others, and to ourselves which our transgressions have spawned. Another more subtle contributor to our vulnerability is the lingering presence of a myth which steals away our assurance of having been forgiven. We are sometimes taught to believe that because God forgives and forgets our sin, we, too, will forget it if it has truly been forgiven. If we base our assurance on this ill-advised criteria, we either have to severely repress such memories when they want to live, or fall into despair at their presence. Neither is a wise or acceptable course of action.

What then are we to do with the memory of sin? Let it live and linger long enough to accomplish God's intended purpose, for He is the one who forgets but allows us to remember. When God's purposes are understood, the memory of sin no longer serves as a millstone around the neck weighing us down under its burden. Rather, it becomes an instrument through which God continuously communicates His grace within us and through us to others.

The memory of sin is meant to be a constructive force within our lives. Paul, the esteemed apostle, carried a vivid memory of his sin—past and present—throughout all of his days here on earth. We recall his words, "I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength,

that He considered me faithful, appointing me to His service. Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy ..." (I Timothy 1:12-13).

"I too was convinced that I ought to do all that was possible to oppose the name



of Jesus of Nazareth. And that is just what I did in Jerusalem. On the authority of the chief priests I put many of the saints in prison, and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. Many a time I went from one synagogue to another to have them punished, and I tried to force them to blaspheme. In my obsession against them, I even went to foreign cities to persecute them" (Acts 26:9-12).

Do you suppose Paul could recall these events without feeling a sting deep within his soul? Yet it was precisely this awareness that kept alive within him an abiding appreciation for the all-consuming nature of God's love and grace. So it should be with us. The memory of sin keeps before us our need of a Savior. Sin is ugly, but it is this very view of it that reflects the beauty of God's grace and keeps alive within us the deep appreciation so vital to living a Christ-centered life.

Forgetfulness about sinfulness can also lead to a carelessness, indifference, and hard-heartedness toward other sinners. This was a concern Jesus addressed frequently with the Pharisees who had little, if any, awareness of their own sinfulness.

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable, "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I

am not like other men — robbers, evildoers, adulterers — or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted" (Luke 18:9-14). Enough said!

The memory of sin can also serve as an important deterrent to future acts of disobedience. We may not like the pain of such memories, but without it living within us from time to time we would forfeit a powerful protection against our vulnerability in the face of our own willfulness. I was told many times as a child not to get near the wood-burning stove at my grandmother's house, but it was only after I had experienced pain at its expense that I kept a safe distance from it. Perhaps if we understood the role the memory of sin is to play in our lives, we would invite the memory of its pain to instruct our souls more often.

What should we do with the memory of sin? We should treat it as a friend and not an enemy. God forgets, but allows us to remember as a way of exciting within us a deep and abiding gratitude for His grace. He wants it to remind us of our need of a Savior, to keep our hearts tender toward fellow sinners, and through the pain of our memories, to protect us from further acts of disobedience. □

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# CHRISTIANITY AND THE FEDERAL DEFICIT

Only when our desire for "things" is limited, can we hope to overcome this problem.

by D. James Kennedy

**T**HE GREAT MAJORITY of commentators believe that the overriding problem facing our nation is that of the spiraling, completely-out-of-control national debt.

There has been a great deal of analysis and discussion, but none has considered God and His Word. Yet, this huge predicament is basically a moral and spiritual problem that can only be solved on a spiritual basis.

Just a few years ago we were thinking that soon the national debt would reach a trillion dollars—which seemed unimaginable! How much is a trillion? If you started a business when Christ was born and lost a million dollars a day every day seven days a week, it would be another 700 years before you could lose a trillion dollars! Yet our national debt is now about \$2 1/2 trillion!

The Grace Commission examined the problems with the financial affairs of America, and concluded that if future spending increases equal the average of the last two decades, by the year 2000 we will have annual budgets of approximately \$7.6 trillion and running \$2 trillion

national deficits. Soon we could be facing deficits of 12, 15, 20 trillions of dollars. Although this is a problem of enormous consequences, most people have never really grasped the real cause of this plight because they haven't looked at it from a biblical and spiritual point of view.

## THE BASIC SPIRITUAL PROBLEM

Charles Wolfe, an expert in these matters, has given a penetrating three-part analysis of the basic spiritual problem:

First, the unredeemed or unregenerate man has virtually unlimited wants and desires for material things. He wants everything.

Second, because he is unregenerate and does not have the power of God helping him, his ability to produce and meet those wants is severely limited.

Third, he still finds little satisfaction so is always looking for some other way to meet his wants and needs. He may turn to crime. He may sell drugs. He may just "get high" to forget his problems. He may turn to gambling.

Consider the millions of dollars spent on the lottery—even among church peo-

ple. They gamble because they want things, apparently not realizing that gambling violates the Tenth Commandment, "Thou shalt not covet."

The redeemed man has Jesus Christ in his heart, and he should know that his Father has promised to provide for all of his needs out of His riches in glory. Thus, the gulf between wants and resources is greatly narrowed.

Furthermore, the redeemed man has been given an enhanced ability to meet his diminished wants because he has become a new creature in Jesus Christ. And that makes a difference in everything he does.

## THE PURITAN WORK ETHIC

The Puritan Work Ethic uses five concepts:

First, worry—which so frustrates and limits people's ability—is taken away. The Scripture tells us: "Be careful (anxious) for nothing" (Philippians 4:6). Christ is going to provide for us. Second, we have the help of God who gives us additional strength to perform our tasks. Third, we have new wisdom and ideas



that come from God. "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally" (James 1:5). Fourth, the redeemed man is given the power to persevere and continue on when others may fall by the wayside. And fifth, he has a purpose for what he is doing. His work, whatever that may be, is done to the glory of God.

Because the redeemed man has been given these enhanced abilities, he can actually produce much more than he needs or wants. Therefore, he is enabled to give more and save more. He is able to invest in tools. That is why, after a hundred years since the founding of this country, Americans were saving more than any people in the world. American workers had more and better power tools per capita, and used them more effectively than the people of any other nation. Americans enjoyed the world's highest standard of living.

Sadly, this is no longer true. The Puritan Work Ethic is now virtually forgotten and the Christian concepts it embodies have been nullified through our secularized humanistic education. Americans today save less than any other industrialized nation and invest less in tools of production than any other industrialized nation. That is why the standard of living in America is no longer the highest in the world—and is still sinking.

Think what it will be when our children and grandchildren have to pay off the national debt! The Bible says that inheritances go from the father to the sons, but we are taking from our children and wasting it on our own immediate wants. We have lost the biblical concept of self-discipline, of postponing the fulfillment of desires by saving.

### THE BIBLE AND SOCIALISM

In Psalm 23:1 we read, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." "Want" means "to lack; to have need of." Today it has also come to mean "to wish for that which is lacking; to desire." But if the Lord Jehovah is our Shepherd, we shall not want. We shall neither lack nor desire greatly the things of the world because our God will supply all of our needs out of His riches in glory (Philippians 4:19).

An unknown author paraphrases the problem in what he terms as The Welfare State: "The government is my shepherd: I need not work...."

The Welfare State is a euphemism for socialism. But some say, "What about in the early days of the church when Christians sold what they had and gave it so that they had all things in common. Isn't that socialism?"

As you carefully read that portion of Acts 4 and 5, you will see that nothing repudiates socialism more thoroughly. First, they sold their property and brought all of the money and laid it at the feet of Pontius Pilate...or was it Herod? No! It was at the feet of the Apostles. They gave it to the church. The idea today is to take everything away from the church—but the Christians in Acts gave everything to the church!

Second, their action was voluntary. Acts 5:4 makes it clear that the New Testament experiment was entered into of their own volition: "While it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it (the money) not in thine own power?" This guaranteed the right of private property. Furthermore, it was never commanded; it was done out of the enthusiasm of the early Christian era. The plan was dropped because it obviously didn't work. That is why in other portions of the New Testament we find accounts of the Apostle Paul collecting offerings from all over the world for the poor saints at Jerusalem who had apparently bankrupted themselves through their experiment in communal living.

### WHAT ABOUT THE POOR?

Private charity, caring families, community groups, churches and missions—these have provided the way through which America has solved this problem for almost 300 years. We should try to help the poor. But using a socialist method has never worked anywhere.

Charles Murray, a sociologist, wrote a book about our government welfare policies in which he pointed out its failures. Said Murray, "We tried to provide more for the poor, but instead produced more poor. Our antipoverty programs actually made things worse."

The black economist, Walter Williams, said, "We forget that poor people are poor, but not stupid. Poor people respond to economic incentives just like anyone else." Actually, the poverty programs of the federal government have sponsored a whole generation of children living in father-absent households, and it has been devastating

to the very people it was meant to help.

Why? Because the federal government has forgotten a simple elementary economic principle: whatever the government subsidizes will increase! In the 1930's when pigs were subsidized, so many pigs were produced that tens of thousands were shot and pushed into ditches. Corn, too, was subsidized, and later we didn't have storage for it all. Today poverty is subsidized and we're getting more of that. We've subsidized illegitimate children, and now there are so many illegitimate children that we don't know what to do with them.

One lady challenged me on this topic: "I believe that we are our brother's keeper," she said.

"I completely agree," I told her. "but the difference is, I believe we are our brother's keeper, and you believe the government should be." That's the difference between Christianity and socialism.

Yes, we are to help the needy. Churches, charities and private organizations are to help. We also should lead them to Christ and educate them so they don't have to become the recipients of welfare, generation after generation. Welfare destroys the incentives and the meaning of life for whole generations, and causes a deficit which is absolutely destroying us.

### WHO IS TO BLAME?

The blame goes, not to the President, or to the House of Representatives which is elected by people to vote for the person who has promised to give them the most. It is because of the greed and cupidity of people in our own country.

Only when the Spirit of God works in our hearts so that the things of this world and our desire for them is limited...only when our trust is no longer in government as our shepherd, but in a God who has promised to provide all things...only when we get back to the biblical work ethic which is going to provide the material needs, the tools, the savings, the investments that make for a prosperous nation, is there any hope of overcoming this problem.

The Apostle Paul said, "I have learned in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." Have you? □

*Dr. D. James Kennedy is the President and Founder of Evangelism Explosion International, as well as Senior Pastor of the Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.*



# MAKING A DIFFERENCE

by Kevin Narramore

**"DO YOU FEEL** most people can be trusted?" Opinion polls show that over the last third of this century Americans have become 22 percent *less* trusting of their fellow citizens. In another survey that asked how often people spent a social evening with a friend, the proportion answering "more than once a year" declined from 72 percent in 1974 to 61 percent in 1993 (*Making Democracy Work*, by Robert Putnam).

The decline of trust and sociability in America is evidenced in more than just statistical numbers. It permeates all of society and also has an important spiritual significance. But let's back up and look at some inter-related trends: the rise of violent crime and civil litigation; increased political corruption; the breakdown of family structure; the decline of neighborhoods; shrinking mainline denominations, unions, clubs, and charities; the proliferation of special interest groups and the general sense among Americans of a lack of shared values and community with those around them.

As the 20th century draws to a close, historians are beginning to recognize the 90s as a time when collective trust has finally been eclipsed by a national tide of doubt and divisive individualism. Why are the citizens of these *United States* becoming less and less "united"? Of course, not everyone thinks America is in bad shape. There are economists who, pointing to increased global competitiveness, herald America as ready for sustained world industrial leadership. Some point to cultural improvements due to progressive advances in civil rights. Information-age technologists predict enlightenment as the technology revolution creates freer exchange of information. Multi-culturalists point to new levels of societal diversity as strengths, but never weaknesses.

While the apostles of human and social potential are well intentioned, they fail to recognize that America cannot remain strong without internalized virtues which are based on our traditional Judeo-Christian ethic. The Bible calls us to a societal structure where people love and trust one another for the greatest good: "Be devoted to one another in



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## **The Crisis of America's Vanishing Trust Part I — The Collective**

brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves" (Romans 12:10). Without shared values there can be little commonality or trust. Without trust, how can any society take advantage of economic, political, or technical advancements?

America's weakening social infrastructure leaves citizens with less and less in common *except for the legal system*. We are the world's most litigious country! Courts, taking broad interpretations of the individual rights defined by the Constitution, are turning the state into an enemy of the very institutions which have promoted moral values, ethics, social responsibility, and trust.

Take, for example, the Boy Scouts, founded as a Christian organization intended to impart virtues like courage, self-reliance, and responsibility in boys. In recent years, it has been sued by Jews for excluding non-Christians, by feminists for admitting only boys, and by gay rights activists for excluding homosexual scout masters. Accordingly, the organization is now more diverse and "politically correct," but it has lost those attributes that made it a strong moral force.

What a contrast America is today from the 1830s when the strengths of our country were observed by the French writer and intellectual, Alexis de Tocqueville. He visited our cities, towns and farms, and observed that America's success was due largely to the richness of

its religious-social community which consisted of temperance societies, choral groups, charitable associations, Bible studies, abolitionist organizations, schools, universities, and hospitals!

Today, the greatness of America has lessened but not entirely vanished. While the "individual rights revolution" of the past half decade is dividing and harming our nation—all is not lost if Christians everywhere will pray for spiritual revival. Historically, God's intervention to enliven his people is documented as Biblical fact. In II Chronicles 7:14 God promises, "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land." Revival is not new to American shores. Consider the spiritual renewal among the colonial settlers, the Great Awakening, and the Methodist and Baptist revivals of the first half of the nineteenth century. Then came great evangelists like Dwight L. Moody and Billy Sunday. In the twentieth century the ministry and crusades of Billy Graham have reached countless millions. Recently, several evangelical denominations—especially among charismatics—have experienced great renewal. And Promise Keepers, a ministry to men, is making a nationwide impact.

These events bring hope of spiritual change. Now we must pray earnestly that God will once again bring our country together under his Lordship. As we trust and experience God as a community, we create a means of sharing Biblical virtues which creates trust for one another.

So three cheers for Bible study groups, church gatherings, para-church organizations, local outreaches, and groups who gather to do good. America can only flourish in the presence of collective worship, social service, and association. "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10:25). □

In the next issue of *Psychology For Living*, **Making A Difference** will explore the dynamics of trust as it relates to individuals.



# HEALTH WATCH

Introducing A Medical and Surgical Potpourri... by Eva Hallam Solberg

## MICROGRAPHIC SURGERY

Cure rates of 95 to 99 percent for basal-cell and squamous-cell carcinomas have been reported after using "Mohs micrographic surgery"—a type of operation for skin cancer. A specially trained surgeon cuts away the malignancy in fine slices; as each slice is removed it is carefully examined under a microscope until the final slices reveal no cancer cells.

*(University of Chicago  
Better Health Letter)*

## SNACK SMART

When you reach for a snack, it's often a food's characteristic—crunchy, creamy, or cold—that appeals to you, rather than the food itself. Once you've identified what you're looking for, choose a heart-healthy food that can satisfy your crav-

ing. Some ideas:

❖ **Crunchy**—reduced-fat or fat-free crackers, air-popped popcorn, raw vegetables, rice cakes, frozen grapes.

❖ **Creamy or Cold**—non-fat frozen yogurt, fat-free ice cream, sorbet, juice bars or fruit spritzers.

*(Mayo Clinic Health Letter)*

## DRY EYE SYNDROME

Most people know that drugs such as tranquilizers, anti-depressants and amphetamines can affect a user's judgment and vision. Many other medications can also interfere with sight.

In particular, antihistamines, estrogen patches and oral contraceptives are being increasingly blamed for "dry eye syndrome," especially in persons who wear contact lenses. Dry eye syndrome is marked by scratchy sensations in the eyes,

blurred vision, excess watering, and an increased incidence of eye infection. These symptoms...should be brought to the attention of a qualified professional, such as an optometrist or ophthalmologist.

*(Dr. Peter Gott, Pasadena  
Star-News)*

## MICROWAVE OVEN TRAP

Cooking chicken in microwave ovens won't kill harmful salmonella and other bacteria. Microwave ovens heat food through molecular friction, leaving surface temperatures too uneven to kill the contaminants. Cook chicken in conventional ovens at 350 degrees F. until the meat thermometer reads 185 degrees F. in both the breast and thigh areas, or until juices run clear.

*(Ruth E. Lindsay, nutritionist,  
Georgia Southern College)*

## HOMOSEXUALITY SELF DESTRUCTIVE

The average life span of an American male is seventy-four years, but the average life span of the homosexual male is forty-one.

The typical homosexual interviewed in a study by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control had 500-plus sexual partners, with AIDS victims averaging 1,100 and some reporting as many as 20,000. An estimated 50 percent of all homosexual males are HIV-positive, according to the Centers for Disease Control. Reliable studies indicate that homosexuals represent one to three percent of the U.S. population, yet they account for 50 percent of America's syphilis, gonorrhea of the throat, and intestinal infections.

*(Coral Ridge Ministries  
Special Report)*



## Living Memorials



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*(Gifts received after July 23, 1996, will appear in the November-December 1996 issue of PSYCHOLOGY FOR LIVING.)*

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✳ *Living forever* is a reality. As a Christian you are assured of this truth—that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord (II Corinthians 5:8).

✳ You can also "live forever" in another sense: through your Will, you can provide that some or all of your possessions go to a Christian organization that will use your substance to influence lives for eternity. In this way you are sharing directly in the salvation of souls and the alleviation of human suffering—even after you have gone to be with the Lord. Let us encourage you to keep your Will current and to remember the Narramore Christian Foundation. ☐



by Clyde M. Narramore

## WHAT CAN I DO WHEN LOVE IS NOT THERE?

### QUESTION:

*I have been married for a number of years, but it has not been a rewarding experience. Two weeks after the wedding I wished that I had not gotten married. We are both Christians and I have no serious complaint against my husband, but I feel that I have never loved him as a wife should.*

*I admire and respect him as a person, but I can't share and be enthusiastic as his wife. Since I don't believe in divorce, I feel trapped. It's a frustrating existence for both of us. What can I do?*

### ANSWER:

Yours is not a unique problem. If you were to go throughout the churches in our land and ask people privately if they are truly happy in their marriage, many—if they were honest—would need to admit that they are not. Many have asked your question—sometimes silently. Like you, they deplore the emptiness of a loveless marriage. Let me commend you, however, on your decision not to consider the route of divorce. Divorce usually creates a lot more problems than it solves. It is not God's plan.

In considering your problem, the first step is to take a look at yourself. You say you do not love your husband and have never loved him as a spouse should. But I am wondering if you are actually able to love anyone. If you were married to someone else, could you truly love that person?

Many people have had experiences in their childhood that have left them unable to

love others in adulthood. In order for a person to love someone else, he needs to feel that he is loved himself. The Bible tells us to love our neighbors as, or in the same way, we love ourselves. But if we don't care much for ourselves, it's almost impossible to spontaneously love those around us.

If you were continually criticized while growing up, or if you were compared unfavorably to someone else (such as a brother or sister), you probably developed feelings of unworthiness. Or if you were raised by someone who did not spend much time with you—such as a father who was busy with his own work or who was away a great deal—you probably did not develop a happy attitude toward yourself. Or perhaps your mother was a perfectionist and you couldn't please her. Unknowingly, you may have blamed yourself. By the time you reached adulthood, all these negative feelings were bottled up inside. You now are not able to love yourself, your husband, or anyone.

If you fit that description and find that you are unable to feel love to others, you would undoubtedly profit from several sessions with a professionally trained Christian counselor or psychologist. By probing into your innermost feelings and uncovering the stumbling blocks that hinder you from devoting yourself to your husband, you can deal with the root of your problem and clear it up. It might also be helpful to join a support group where you would feel

the loving encouragement of others while working through your own hang-ups. Through experiencing the love and caring of others, you can learn to love.

Love is not something that's magic. It's not a thing that you "fall" into or out of. It's something you learn. You learn it throughout your childhood from people who love you. By experiencing such love, you learn to love others. Then, when as an adult you marry, you are capable of loving your spouse.

Here's something interesting: love can be learned—even after you are married. In the Bible, older women are instructed to *teach* younger women to love their husbands. (See Titus 2:4.) So you see that counseling may be very helpful in teaching you how to love your husband.

You might also encourage your husband to get some counseling. He may be doing (or not doing) little things that turn you off. If so, the changes will make your marriage much better.

As for your part, one of the best ways for you to fan the fire of love is to behave as though you loved your husband. In other words, act as you would like to feel. Say the things you wished you would think. Does this make you a hypocrite? No, it doesn't. Loving thoughts and actions can foster love feelings in your own heart. Behave toward your husband with love and tenderness, and amazingly, the feelings will follow. It has been said that love involves an act of the will: you can choose to love. And usually, when you

love by decision, your heart will follow.

You say that you "admire and respect" your husband as a person. Then focus on his excellent qualities and tell yourself—and him—how fortunate you are to have such a fine husband. Spend quality time together. Laugh a lot. Do things together that you both enjoy. Marriage should be fun.

Do you truly want to love your husband? If so, you have the greatest resource in all the world—the Lord Jesus Christ. Turn to Him and tell Him that you find it difficult to love your husband. God is the source of all love, so ask Him for a share of His love in your heart.

If you are truly sincere, in the weeks and months ahead, God can give you a love for your husband that will far exceed your expectations. He has done it for others, and He wants to do it for you.

Your marriage can be one of love and fulfillment! □

### Coming Next Issue

**Christmas Is God Visible**

**Is Perfectionism Crippling You?**

**A Thank-You note from Gramma**

**Welcome, Winnie!**

**Today Is All You Have**



by Lee and Gloria Bendell

## WHY DOES GOD ALLOW CHRISTIANS TO SUFFER?

**W**E HAVE some good friends—a couple—who are some of the most godly people we know. He has been a pastor, and then a successful businessman who gave extremely liberally to Christian causes, even setting up a family foundation for that purpose. Yet, through medical problems, his hearing has become so sensitive that when he tries to carry on an extended conversation, he experiences intense pain. Loud noises of any kind are even more painful. In addition to all of this, he recently underwent surgery for lung cancer.

Another Christian friend has cancer that merits an operation—but his heart condition is such that doctors advise against any surgery. He has been told to go home and “let nature take its course.”

Also consider the Christians suffering for their faith in China, Africa, and around the world. An editorial in *Christianity Today* states, “The typical Christian who lives in a developing country speaks a non-European language and exists under the constant threat of persecution—of murder, imprisonment, torture, or rape.”

**Why, oh why, does God allow people who are so deeply committed to His Son Jesus Christ to undergo such severe trauma, pain, and suffering?**

Perhaps the difficulties you and I experience are not life-threatening, but the question remains the same: Why, Lord, do you allow this to happen? Loss of job, marital discord, children going astray, parents needing care, death or illness of family members or close friends, and emotional or physical problems suffered by ourselves—or by those we love?

There is much to be said on this topic, but we will focus on only one of God’s purposes in allowing His children to suffer: that is, to develop godly character traits in us.

This purpose is clearly stated in several portions of Scripture. The book of James addresses it in its opening verses. “Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance (patience KJ,



endurance NAS). Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything (James 1:2-4). A few verses later James continues, “Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him (James 1:12).

Romans 5:3-5 affirms the character building gained from suffering: **“We also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.”**

I Peter 1:6, 7 describes how suffering develops our faith. “In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”

While much of the suffering and trials referred to in Scripture are the result of persecution for taking a stand for faith and righteousness, the message of perseverance applies to all types of suffering. We tend to think of Job as the greatest biblical example of human suffering. Job had his cattle stolen, servants killed, sheep and servants consumed by lightning, sons and daughters killed by the collapse of a house in what was probably a tornado, and painful sores all over his body. In spite of all this, Job responded, “Shall we accept good from God, and not

trouble?” Job persevered in his faith, proclaiming, “Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him” (Job 13:15).

When trials, temptations, pain, and suffering come into our lives, it is natural for us to ask *why*? Sometimes unlike Job, we question the justice and even the love of God when we appear to be plagued by adverse circumstances. During those times we have the choice to doubt our faith, to move away from God and become angry or bitter, or to persevere and draw closer to God. We need to acknowledge His sovereignty and try to understand that God can use these experiences to mold us into the person He wills for us to become.

In Hebrews God tells us “the Lord disciplines (chastises) those He loves” (12:6). The verse continues by admonishing us to “endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons” (12:7). “God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in His holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it” (12:10,11).

**“We are reassured that in the midst of our circumstances and adversities, God continues to love us.** We need to pray that we will respond to challenges as God would have us to do. Through them God will shape our character with traits of perseverance, patience, faith, hope, righteousness, and peace for the glory and honor of Jesus Christ. As we surrender to the leading of God’s Word and Jesus our Savior, our lives can reflect the message of a beloved hymn:

***Have Thine own way, Lord!  
Have Thine own way!  
Thou are the Potter, I am the clay  
Mold me and make me  
After Thy will,  
While I am waiting,  
Yielded and still.***

The words of this hymn close with what should be the prayer of us all.

***Fill with Thy Spirit  
Till all shall see,  
Christ only, always,  
Living in me.***





# OUR WORLD TODAY

by Eva Hallam Solberg

## GIRAFFES STICK NECKS OUT FOR RIGHT

Identifying and telling the stories of heroes—real people (often children) who take significant personal risks for the common and community good—has been the province of the Giraffe Project since its founding by Ann Medlock in 1982.

Named as a "Point of Light" by the Bush White House, the Giraffe Project aims to encourage people, to inspire them to stand tall behind their convictions.

Giraffe Project members are urged to report people to headquarters who put themselves at risk for the common good—the Giraffe Project calls these "sightings." The project awards Giraffe commendations and presents Giraffe stories and motivational materials. The project has developed Standing Tall for use in kindergarten through high school. It is aimed at building courage, caring, and responsibility in youth.

For more information, write to the Giraffe Project, Box 759, Langley, WA 98260-0759. (*Friendly Exchange*)

## SOUNDING BETTER ON THE PHONE

You can make a better impression on the phone by opening your mouth wider as you speak and moving your lips more. Most people don't move their lips enough, which flattens the tone of their voice. Do not squeeze the phone between your neck and shoulder. This tenses your throat and makes you talk from one side of your mouth. Speak in your lower vocal

"Every Person Is Worth Understanding."

—Clyde M. Narramore

range. Telephones transmit lower pitches more truly than higher tones.

(*Bottom Line Personal*)

## RELIGIOUS STUDIES

A growing number of college students are majoring in religious studies. One study reported that forty-four thousand freshmen at 427 U.S. colleges declared religion or theology as their major in the 1994-95 academic year. Another 1995 study of 251 colleges cited a 36 percent increase in enrollment of undergraduate religion majors over the preceding five years. According to news reports, many courses are no longer devotional, but explore the subject as it relates to issues of law, ethics, medicine, psychology, and films.

(*NIRR*)

## BILLY & RUTH GRAHAM RECEIVE GOLD MEDAL

Evangelist Billy Graham and his wife, Ruth, received the Congressional Gold Medal—the highest honor Congress can bestow on a civilian—at a special ceremony in the Rotunda of the U. S. Capitol earlier this year. This was the 114th time Congress has presented this medal since it was first given to George Washington in 1776. House Speaker Newt

Gingrich called Graham, "one of the great civic leaders of the 20th century." He said the Grahams have "given up their lives as a model for serving humanity, and stand as role models for generations to come."

(*EP News Service*)

## TO FIND CONTACT LENS

To find a contact lens lost in a carpet, place a nylon stocking over the nozzle of a vacuum cleaner and carefully vacuum the area. The lens will be pulled up onto the stocking.

(*Bottom Line Personal*)

## CHRISTIAN FICTION DRAWS UNPRECEDENTED SALES

Big-name evangelical leaders have joined the ranks of celebrity novelists, drawing both unprecedented sales and secular attention to a still-developing category of publishing known as "Christian fiction." Sales of religious fiction books more than doubled between 1991 and 1994, and in the same span, religious fiction increased to 2.2 percent of all book sales.

The genre was largely carved out beginning a decade ago with tales of western romance by such writers as Janette Oke.

Publishers and retailers tell

us that recently released apocalyptic novels by Pat Robertson and Tim LaHaye, and pro-life, first-time fiction by Charles Colson are selling well in Christian bookstores. Another first-time fiction by Hal Lindsey—hot off the press in July—promises to be an enormous best seller in the Christian, as well as the secular market.

(*Christianity Today & TBN*)

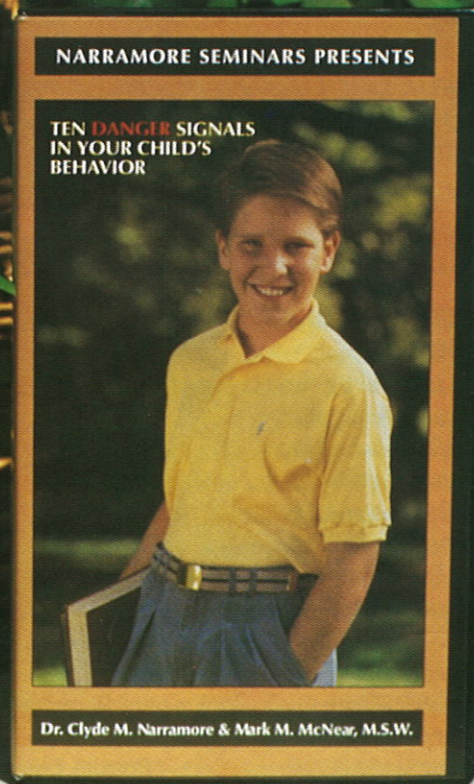
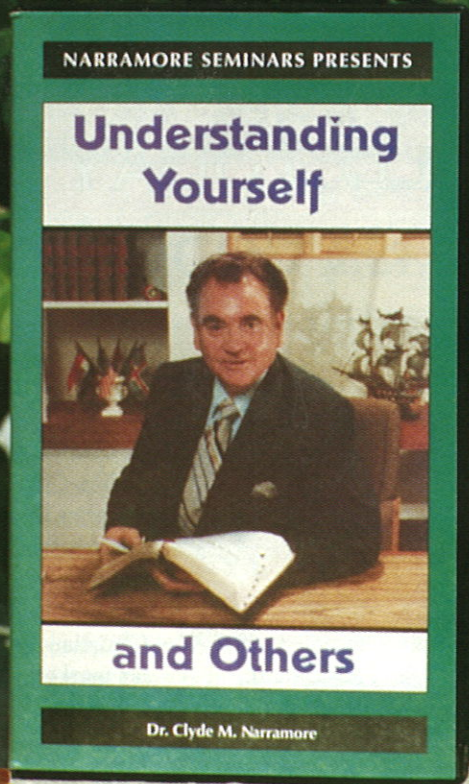
## HOTLINE HELPS KEEP CHILDREN SAFE

Legislation for the first-ever hotline to make public the identities of convicted child molesters who have been released from prison has made possible such information. California Child Molester Identification Hotline, 900/463-0400, is available to anyone 18 years of age or older who wants to find out if someone working with children is a registered child molester. To use this service, callers must give their own names and explain why the information is needed. They must also provide the subject's name and any of the following items: exact address, driver's license, Social Security number, date of birth or exact physical description. A fee of \$10 is charged which entitles the caller to check on two names.

California Attorney General Dan Lungren believes every state in the nation should follow in California's footsteps by establishing a similar hotline. His office will provide information and may be reached by writing 1300 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814.

(*Friendly Exchange*)





# TWO VIDEOS THAT CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE

## UNDERSTANDING YOURSELF AND OTHERS

Unless you understand your own dynamics it is difficult to gain insights and to change. And unless you understand others, it is difficult to relate to them and be a blessing to them.

This insightful video is acclaimed by Christian leaders as the most helpful presentation of its kind! In it Dr. Narramore discusses the three basic causes for everyday problems: Physiological, Spiritual, and Emotional. He then points out the solutions. ***A must-see!***

## TEN DANGER SIGNALS IN YOUR CHILD'S BEHAVIOR

Some childhood problems are not severe, but some are. Dr. Clyde Narramore, assisted by Dr. Mark McNear, lists Ten Danger Signals which you should not overlook in children.

This video is especially helpful for parents, teachers, and all who work with children. By spotting problems early, you may be able to change the direction of a child's life. This video can be shown at home, in church classes, at retreats, and at conferences. ***An invaluable tool!***

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