

# PSYCHOLOGY FOR LIVING

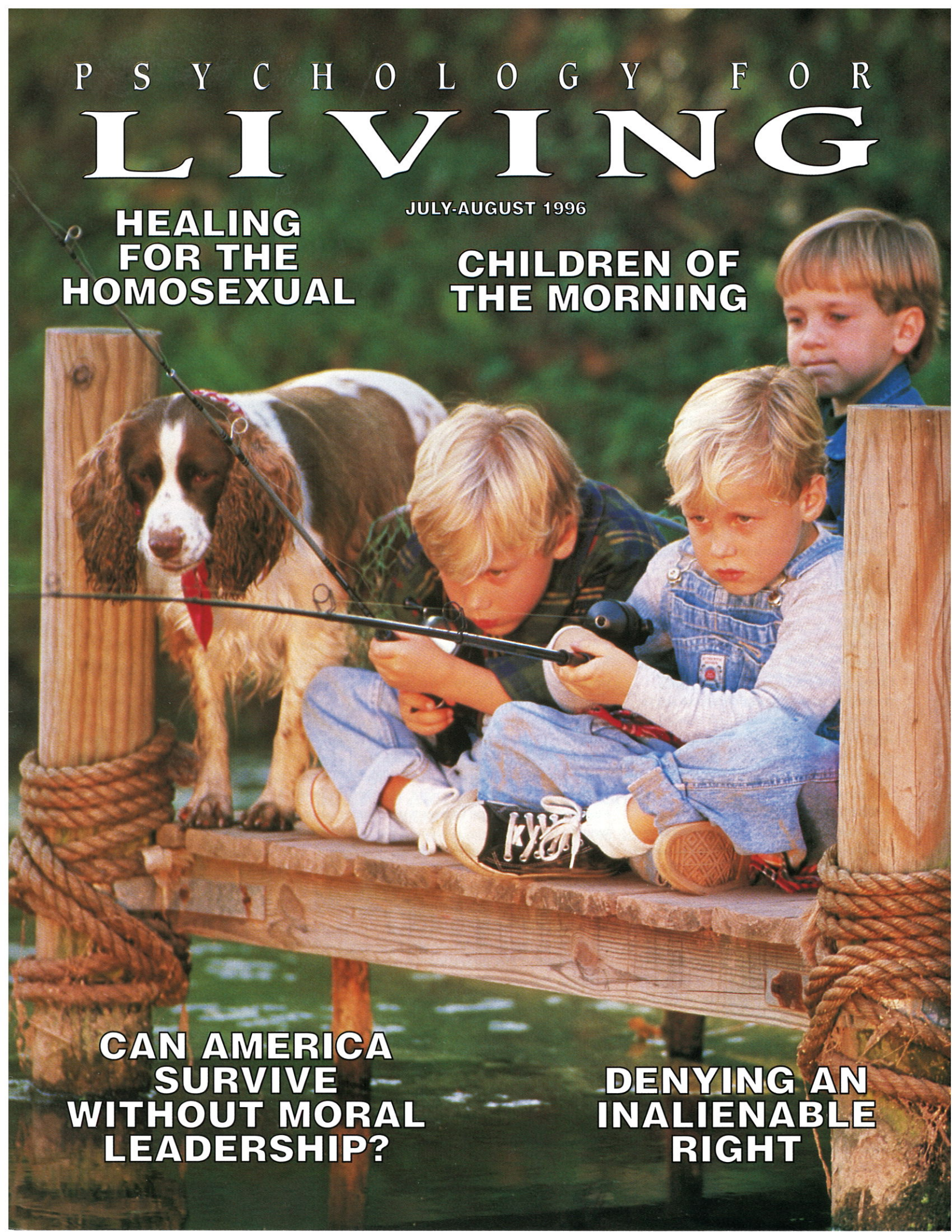
JULY-AUGUST 1996

**HEALING  
FOR THE  
HOMOSEXUAL**

**CHILDREN OF  
THE MORNING**

**CAN AMERICA  
SURVIVE  
WITHOUT MORAL  
LEADERSHIP?**

**DENYING AN  
INALIENABLE  
RIGHT**





by Clyde M. Narramore

## HOW TO FIND CONTENTMENT

**T**HE WORD OF GOD is like a gold mine. It's like a mine that has no end. The more of the precious gold you extract, the more there is.

One portion of Scripture that has been a gold mine to me is I Timothy 6:6: **"Godliness with contentment is great gain."**

If there's any way to describe society today, it would be a people characterized by discontent. Humans are looking everywhere for peace and happiness.

Sometimes people do very strange things in their quest for contentment. I remember talking with a man from a remote location in the northwestern section of our country. When I asked why he had chosen to live there, he told me he had wanted to get away from it all. I asked if he was happy, and he answered, "No." He was still not content.

The ways in which a person seeks contentment are almost limitless. Some look for it in food, but they don't find it. Others look for it in prestige, but it's not there. Some go for wealth, but that doesn't satisfy. Still others turn to sex or illegitimate relationships, but they're always disappointed. Some get hooked on alcohol or drugs, but it only makes things worse. Still others bury themselves in their work hoping for success, or fame.

**The Bible teaches that Christ is the source of peace. When we turn to Him and devote ourselves to serving Him, He fills our hearts with joy and contentment.**

This quest started with me when I was just a boy. I was raised on a ranch in Arizona, and attended a small country church. There were perhaps no more than 45 to 50 people who lived in the whole area, but a faithful man of God pastored our little congregation. To me, as a child, it seemed like a large congregation.

At about the age of six I began to understand the plan of salvation quite well. I had memorized Bible verses in my Sunday School class. The pastor talked about Heaven and how to get there, but I knew I wasn't ready. Then



he talked about hell; and I didn't like that. Why? Because I had made no preparations to sidestep that terrible place. Everything he preached about displeased me. So when we went to church, I made it a point to sit on the bench behind the stovepipe. That way the preacher couldn't see me. I'm sure he didn't even know I was there, but I sure knew *he* was there!

If when standing at the pulpit, the preacher moved to his left, I would bend to my left. When he moved to his right, I would scoot around to my right, always keeping the stovepipe between us so he wouldn't see me.

The Bible speaks of three kinds of "stovepipes"—that is, three things that could keep a person from the Lord: **the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life.** And I suppose the latter is the biggest.

But God in His mercy kept dealing with me. And one day when I was about eleven years old, I was riding on horseback bringing some cattle to the corral, and I decided that I had sat behind that stovepipe long enough. So I got off my horse, tied him to a nearby post, and knelt down by a ditch bank. Right there I talked to the Lord and admitted that I had made many mistakes and was a sinner. I acknowledged that Jesus was the Son of God who died for my sins. In all

sincerity I asked Him to come into my heart and save me. I also made Him a promise: *I told Him that I would serve Him as long as I lived.*

When I got up from my knees, I was marvelously saved. You may wonder if I experienced some special sensation. No, not really. I had merely made a contract. God says in His Word, "For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13). I knew that God was no liar, and therefore, I was saved. I did have the assurance that my sins were forgiven and if I were to die that moment, I would be with the Lord!

Next day while playing ball at school, everything seemed different. A few years later as I attended high school, I realized that Christ was always with me, helping and guiding me. In college He meant everything to me. And I found joy in associating with other godly young people.

Through the years God has led me, and my life has been blessed with contentment. He has delivered me from wanting all kinds of *things* that I don't need and which would not bring peace and satisfaction.

I have lived long enough to observe many Christian people who also have come to realize that **godliness—that is, living for the Lord and serving Him each day—combined with contentment, is indeed great gain!**

The Lord Jesus Christ Himself, while here on earth, was a wonderful example of contentment. I don't suppose at any one time he owned more than a couple of pairs of sandals or perhaps two or three robes. In fact, Jesus said, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head" (Matthew 8:20).

**Dear friend, I trust that you have discovered the secret of I Timothy 6:6—that "godliness with contentment" is truly great gain!**

*Clyde M. Narramore*



# LIVING

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**Editor:** Ruth E. Narramore  
**Editorial Assistant:** Priscilla Walton  
**Staff Writer:** Eva Hallam Solberg  
**Art Director:** Donald Ensign  
**Photographer:** Benjamin Burmwell

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## TO THINK ABOUT

by Ruth E. Narramore

"Grandma," said little Stacy looking up with her dancing brown eyes. "Can we municate?"

"Municate? What do you mean, dear?"

"You know, Grandma! Municate. *Municate!* I talk and you listen!"

When my friend and colleague, Eva Solberg, shared this amusing incident about her young grandchild, we enjoyed a little chuckle. But then I thought, *There's a tremendous amount of truth in Stacy's four-year-old wisdom.* God tells us there is much we can learn "out of the mouths of babes and sucklings" (Psalm 8:2). Little did Stacy know the accuracy of her definition.

The prefix *com-*, meaning "with" or "together," is the handle that gives the word *communicate* its quintessential character. Webster explains it as sharing or exchanging thought or knowledge. Unfortunately, many of

us seem much more adept at "municating." We forget about the *com-* or "together" part while we do all the talking and expect others to do the listening.

Parents often are guilty of this with their children: "Listen to me, son. I'm telling you! Do you understand? I don't care what you think!"

While children must learn not to dominate a conversation and to be respectful and appropriate in what they say, they deserve the right to be heard. The old adage about children being seen and not heard should be chucked.

This one-sided speaking which Stacy so aptly dubbed as "municating" is a common practice with people of all ages and in all walks of life. Mary



and Megan are having lunch together. Mary wants to talk about her garden and all the different varieties of roses that are in bloom. But adventurous Megan has little interest in scratch-

ing soil to watch plants grow. She can't wait to share about the fun and excitement she experienced on her vacation in Hawaii. Both of these ladies are eager to talk about their own special interest — and they do! But neither is hearing what the other has to say.

The tragic part is that we do this sort of thing in our relationship with the Lord. We "say our prayers" and have a whole list of requests that we ask Him to fulfill. We do all the talking and expect God to do all the listening. It never occurs to us that we

ought to keep still and open our hearts to what God wants to convey to us.

It's difficult to hear another voice when we ourselves are talking non-stop. In Psalm 46:10 we are told, "Be still and know that I am God." We are also instructed that God isn't going to try to out-shout us. Rather, if we are to hear His message to us, we must listen for the "still small voice" (I Kings 19:12).

God wants to communicate. He listens to our requests; He cares about our concerns and the various things we tell Him. But God also wants us to hear what He has to say. This is vital to our spiritual well-being.

Our relationship with Him is meant to be one of interaction and sharing: "Come, now, and let us reason together, says the Lord" (Isaiah 1:18). A one-way "municating" experience is not satisfying on either side. God wants the *best* for us. He asks us to *communicate*. □

## WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

### ALWAYS SOMETHING CONCRETE

Thank you so much for the broadcast which I hear on KARR, Family Radio. Your program is so helpful, and has been a wonderful stabilizing force in my life while raising our two children.

The way you present "soul kinks" (attitude problems or misconceptions), or "people problems" (interpersonal relationships) or "sick" people (mental illness, or physiological imbalances that cause mental illness symptoms) is always so objective and does not damage the emotions of those who listen.

When some tell stories (especially when interviewing

women who have been abused) they play it for all it's worth causing the women to cry during the interview and the listeners to be moved to tears of sympathy. When hearing all that, it disenables the listener from helping those within their own realm of experience or acquaintance.

Your programs are different! Praise the Lord, you always give something concrete that we can do to lift others out of the webs of life that have entrapped them.

Doris Erickson  
Poulsbo, Washington

### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to you, Dr. & Mrs. Narramore, on your

50th wedding anniversary. Thanks for being such great role models.

Mrs. Carl D. Etling  
Portland, Oregon

*Editor's Note: Many thanks to you and all of our wonderful friends who sent cards and letters of congratulations. We appreciate your thoughtfulness.*

### MUSIC AND YOUR HEART

Gloria Bendell's articles on music are some of the best I have ever read. I found them most interesting.

I must have the music genes in my system as music surely plays an important part in my life. But it must be

GOOD music — and not the co-called Christian Rock of today. Nothing is better than the hymns to teach doctrine and faith. Yes, I am old fashioned and nearly eighty-one years old, so "give me the old time religion!"

William Moats  
Park Rapids, Minnesota

### I NEEDED THOSE INSIGHTS!

Thank you for your newsletter and your magazine. I especially appreciated "Oversensitive" and "I Can't Control My Tears." God knew how much I needed those insights!

June Flack  
Huntington Valley, Pennsylvania



# CAN AMERICA SURVIVE WITHOUT MORAL LEADERSHIP?

We are in a war—a battle for our very basic freedoms of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

*by Joan Clayton*

There is a very noticeable absence of moral leaders today...leaders who stand for morality, integrity, honesty, and character. We need leaders who are not driven by personal





greed or self-promotion, but who love this country and are willing to sacrifice while leading the nation in the best possible way.

A society that allows prayer to be removed from public places cannot produce good leaders.

A nation that does "what seems right in its own eyes," (Judges 21:25) will not bring forth moral leaders. Proverbs 29:2 confirms this fact: "When the righteous thrive, the people rejoice; when the wicked rule, the people groan."

Good moral leaders are trustworthy. They do not penalize people for having integrity, nor do they encourage questionable conduct.

Wicked leaders have wicked officials. Wicked rulers are dangerous and the people despair. Have we come to antediluvian conditions again? Genesis 6:11 tells us: "The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence."

We have brought up a generation of people who have been denied prayer in school and who have had the Ten Commandments removed. But have they substituted anything better? Someone has figured out that it takes 35,000 laws to enforce the Ten Commandments!

Give me a leader who is not afraid to take a stand for righteousness. Give me a leader who honors God and family. Give me a leader who is willing to call right "right" and wrong "wrong"! Give me a leader who is not intimidated by political correctness! Give me a leader who respects life, young or old. Give me a leader who respects his country, who stands up for it, who would defend it, love it, and serve it! Give me a leader who gets a tear in his eye whenever "The Star Spangled Banner" is played. Give me a leader who loves "Old Glory," and would make it a very grave offense to desecrate it or burn it.



*"When the righteous thrive, the people rejoice; when the wicked rule, the people groan."*

*Proverbs 29:2*

Will America ever have such leaders? Can we produce these kinds of leaders if our children are brought up in a godless, amoral society?

Godly people produce godly offspring. Godly people produce good citizens and law abiders. If we are taking God out of our nation, are we willing to pay the devastating price?

The result of such an action will only lead to a decadent end, and along the way, more crime, less freedom, and the destruction of the family upon which our civilization is built.

The fact that history repeats itself doesn't seem to register. Great civilizations have crumbled from moral decay! We seem to be slow learners.

It isn't too late! Please stand up and be counted! Demand integrity from our nation's leaders. Don't ignore corruption. Make your voice and your vote count. Write letters to editors to help shape opinion. Get beyond the media bias and search out the truth.

Get involved in your child's school life. Know what your sons and daughters are being taught.

I salute those classrooms who are making a difference with "character counts" programs.

Object strenuously to the filth and trash that floods TV. And we definitely have the power to stay away from filthy movies ourselves.

We are in a war—a battle for our very basic freedoms of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. These are worth fighting for!

We can make a difference, and when we do, we will again see real leaders emerge—leaders of high morals and noble character, leaders who respect family values, and leaders who acknowledge God. □

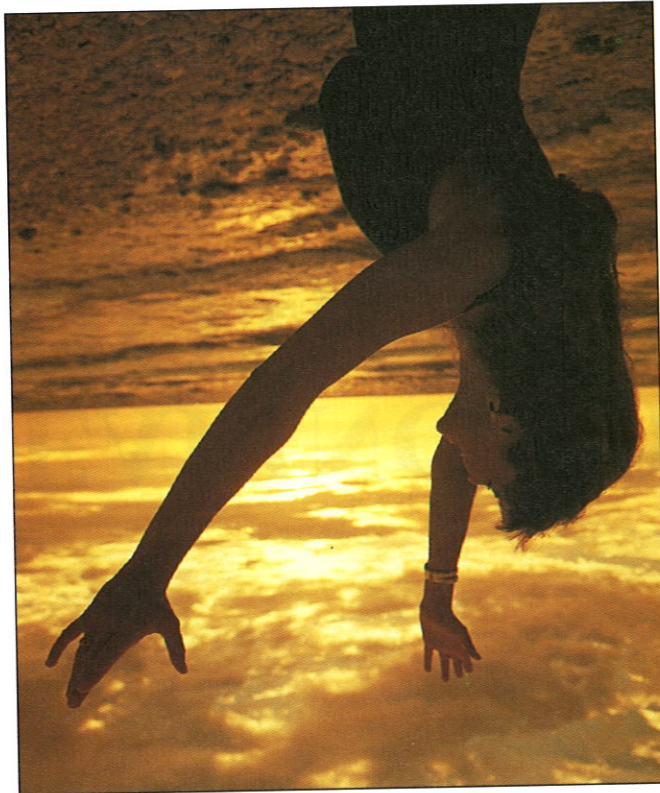
*Joan Clayton is a freelance writer in Portales, New Mexico. She also has a regular column in The Amarillo Globe News in Amarillo, Texas.*



# CHILDREN OF THE MORNING

Focusing on Christ the first thing in the morning will shape your attitudes for the day.

by J. Grant Swank, Jr.



**W**HILE SPENDING SOME TIME on vacation with friends, I noted how

upbeat they were. Every morning our hosts would greet us with cheerful comments about the new day, asking about our rest during the night, and setting their sights on pleasant plans for the ensuing daytime hours. In short, they were happy people to be around.

With that kind of start, we anticipated the rest of the day with excitement. We knew there would not be a dull moment. And sure enough, there wasn't!

This couple are in their eighties, but they greeted the morning with the delightful expectancy of children on Christmas morning. And in all the years I have known them, they have been consistent: I can always count on their happiness to brighten up a day.

One of their secrets is laughter. It doesn't take much to hear them break into a genuine outburst of laughter. Before long, all of us are drawn into their mirth. Such a simple ingredient as laughter—but what a difference it makes. The radiance of this elderly couple lights up the dawn.

It is wonderful to be around people like that. We all appreciate others who encourage us. We gravitate toward those who can see what is going right. It starts the morning on a positive path.

Believers begin each day with the Morning Star. Jesus revealed to John on the island of Patmos that He Himself is "the bright Morning Star."

Therefore, to get the most out of each day, start with Jesus on your mind. Invite Him into your thoughts. He will welcome your invitation. Others with whom you live may begin their days with grumbling. They may be gloomy pessimists. You may be able to influence them, pointing them toward the joyous light you have discovered in Jesus. If so, then you will have reflected

some of Heaven's radiance in your own household.

Be persistent in focusing on Jesus at the start of every day. This is particularly important if your tendency is to look on the negative side. If such is the case, make an extra effort to concentrate on the light of God's presence. As soon as you awaken from the sleep of the night, remind yourself that you are going to give the first few moments to the grace of God. When you fix your eyes on Him, He will begin to shape your attitudes. This is the start of fresh happiness.

The weather does not matter. Nor does it matter what duties await you. It is your invitation to Jesus, the Morning Star, that overshadows your circumstances and brings you joy and peace. He will transform your outlook on those circumstances.

Refrain from listening to the news when you first arise. Many news items are dealing with violence, war, financial woes, and the like. Your mind as a believer does not need this as its first focus of the day.

Often people do not realize that their entire day can become clouded because of a negative start from a depressing news report heard at dawn. This is not necessary. It doesn't make us any less-responsible citizens to begin the day by focusing on God's goodness, rather than on the devil's destruction. At some later hour we can become informed on what has taken place in the world during the preceding 24 hours. So why start the day with bad news?

Redirect your morning routine to center on Jesus and His shining presence. Thank Him for watching over you throughout the night. Tell Him you are trusting in His care for this new day. Focus on the happiness that God has in store for you. There's no better way to begin a new day!

□ Pastor J. Grant Swank, Jr., is pastor of the Church of the Nazarene in Windham, Maine.





# HEALING FOR THE HOMOSEXUAL

**Homosexuality is not caused by genetics or a biological quirk, but rather by broken or disrupted parent-child relationships and/or sexual abuse.**

*by James E. Phelan*

**“O**NCE GAY ALWAYS GAY IS NOT TRUE,” says Richard Cohen, a former homosexual. “The transition from homosexuality to heterosexuality *is* possible for those who wish to change. I did it, and so have many others!”

Richard Cohen is the director of The International Healing Foundation,<sup>1</sup> and author of *“Alfie’s Home,”* a storybook for children and adult-children confused by the effects of sexual abuse. He is also a living testimony that changing unwanted homosexuality is indeed achievable.

Richard grew up thinking he was gay. He now knows that those unwanted thoughts of homosexuality were induced when, as a young child, he was sexually abused by his uncle. Richard reasoned, “I

must be gay, or why else would my uncle do this to me?”

The experience of another man, Jay, was different from Richard’s. Jay’s homosexuality was an unconscious attempt to fill an empty void resulting from the absence of a father. His father had abandoned the family when Jay was just a small child. Explains Jay, “I was thirsty, but I drank from the wrong fountain. But praise God, today I am healed!”

Anne tells another encouraging story of change. Now that she has overcome her struggle with lesbianism, Anne shares, “I am so glad there were some godly people who took the time to unearth the hurts that held me back from growing into healthy femininity. I no longer need to compare myself with

other women, or seek my identity through emotional dependency or lesbian relationships with other women.”

Anne recalled growing up as a classic “tomboy.” She noted that her childhood was full of insecurities and fears. Anne was raped at the age of four by a teenage boy who ordered her not to tell and threatened her if she should do so. Later, Anne sought comfort from the effects of these hurts and fears through the lesbian lifestyle. But eventually this caused her more pain—pain she sought to change. Anne found help from a Christian woman’s therapeutic live-in program targeted for those looking for freedom from homosexuality. Ultimately, however, it was a quiet, yet powerful voice which told her, “I will heal you, Anne.” Anne



Is homosexuality biologically linked? Not according to the many who have found freedom from its evil grasp. This is verified by renowned Christian psychologists such as Dr. Clyde Narramore, as well as other well-trained, Christ-centered professionals. As Dr. Narramore has often said, "Homosexuality is not so much a sexual problem as it is a personality disturbance." In the words of the Christian Research Institute (CRI), "There are many former homosexuals who of their own volition have chosen to reject their sinful, unnatural lifestyle. Today they are no longer homosexuals. Had it been biologically determined that these people would be homosexuals, such a reversal would be virtually impossible." But as Christians we have the comfort-ing assurance that "with God, all things are possible!"

<sup>1</sup> The International Healing Foundation, P.O. Box 901 Bowie, MD 20718-0901, (301) 858-1181  
<sup>2</sup> Love In Action, P.O. Box 753307, Memphis, TN 38175-3307, (901) 542-0250  
<sup>3</sup> Exodus International, P.O. Box 2121, San Rafael, CA. 94912, (415) 454-1017

James E. Phelan of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, is a licensed Social Worker. He is a practicing mental health psychotherapist and a freelance researcher on the topic of homosexuality.



In fact, such a sordid practice has never been God's intent: read Leviticus 18:22, Romans 1:22-27, I Corinthians 6:9-11, and Jude 7. Says Dr. Moberly, "At salvation a person receives a new identity and enters into the heterosexual for which he or she was created. To deny this is to deny the power of the Holy Spirit to transform lives. True faith isn't based on hearsay." Dr. Moberly tells of a young man named Mike who was detached from his father at an early age. He never recalled receiving any love or nurturing from his father. Consequently, this left him thirsty and needy for masculine attention and identity. "I was desperate for male attention. Sadly, my self-worth was being defined by evil men who exploited me sexually." Because of this perversion, Mike continued to become painfully hurt over and over again. Then one day he heard about *Love In Action* with its live-in program. He decided to give it a try. It was through this that Mike found a way out of his homosexuality. Like Anne, Mike was then able to share the reality of God's power with others.

Although Anne and Mike were helped through a therapeutic live-in program, other means of help are also available. Ministry-based therapies such as individual counseling, group therapy, or a combination of such are also available and effective. *Exodus*, for example, can provide confidential referrals to those who

yielded her life to Christ and today she is a happily married heterosexual wife and mother which she is assured is God's purpose for her. Anne affirms, "My identity is secure as a woman because I know and serve Christ."

Anne now helps others who seek deliverance from homosexuality. She leads a woman's support group through *Love In Action*<sup>2</sup>—a Christian ministry aimed at helping men and women who want to overcome homosexuality. This organization is one of over 85 ministries worldwide under the umbrella of *Exodus International*.<sup>3</sup> *Exodus International* stands ready to provide referrals, support, and literature all over the world. They also provide a yearly national conference. *Love In Action* provides therapeutic live-in programs for both men and women. They also have published hundreds of testimonies of change.

Dr. Elizabeth Moberly, a Christian psychologist at BCM International (Bible Club Ministry) understands that homosexuality is not caused by genetics or a biological quirk, but rather, through broken or disrupted parent-child relationships as we saw in the example of Jay. It can also result from being sexually violated as in the case of Richard and Anne. Jay experienced an empty void left by a missing father, one he tried to fill through homosexuality. Jay now actualizes the Scripture passage that proclaims, "Whoever drinks of the water that I give him will never thirst. But the water that I give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into eternal life" (John 4:14). Today Jay is many miles away from homosexuality. He stands on the promise of Psalm 103:12: "As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us."

It should be noted that transitions such as Richard's, Jay's, and Anne's, as well as many other former homosexuals' also come about through the power of God. Today's "politically correct" society states that changing a person's "sexual preference" is impossible. They fail, however, to recognize God's Word which promises, "...all things are possible with God" (Mark 10:27). They also ignore His promise that "He has delivered...and He will deliver" (II Corinthians 1:10). Contrary to what some erroneously believe, God clearly gives the ability to choose *not* to practice a homosexual



# DENYING AN INALIENABLE RIGHT

Those who are the most vulnerable in our society  
have become the victims.

*by Fern Yarnick*





*Fern Yarnick is a freelance writer in Johnstown, Pennsylvania.*

the abortionist hold up the child and give the mother the opportunity of beholding the "fetus" that had caused her so much "trouble"? This procedure is never followed because the abortionist knows that if the woman sees the result of the murder, she will be devastated. Even though the mother's eyes are kept from ever viewing the child when it is taken from her, all too often she is haunted by the memory of this destructive action and severe depression ensues.

But that's not all that has found its way out of Pandora's evil box: out slithers another hypocritical figure dressed in a dignified outfit. It's name is "Conscience Soother." Why bury all those bodies when they can benefit others? it asks. Why not use the aborted tissue in experiments to help those with disabilities? This would be helping humanity.

Many have been taken in by this ploy including a goodly number of men and women serving in our Congress. When a baby is born that is wanted by its parents, the government will protect that child with all the vigor of a mother bear protecting her cubs. Yet, all too often many of those same elected officials deny the aborted baby even the right to a decent burial. Another hypocritical tag-a-long is "compassion for the child." Have you noticed it is no longer called a "fetus"? The poor child, we are told, would be deprived of a decent life since the mother would not be able to provide for her baby. It would be just another of life's refuse. How much better to keep abortion legal and educate the younger generation about birth control? This type of thinking has been making the rounds for 20 years. Since that time, education has not changed a thing. The mind will never change unless there is first a change in the heart.

If abortion becomes the law of the land, we will soon discover another evil which, for a time, was content to remain dormant. "Euthanasia" is the ugliest and most destructive of these evils in that it attacks those citizens who, because of advanced age or failed health, are now rendered too weak to defend themselves. Why allow those old people who have lost their usefulness, to go on living? they argue. And again, Should retarded children be allowed to live while the parents must struggle financially? Wouldn't it be better to rid society of these burdens? This force contends that we would save time and money if we applied the so-called principle of "dying with dignity." Interestingly, history records a list of nations that have engaged in such practices, most of which have now ceased to exist. God's Word tells us, "There is a way that seems right to man, but the ends thereof are the ways of death" (Proverbs 14:12).

Abortion can be likened to cancer, one of the deadliest diseases of our time. If the practice of abortion is allowed to continue and be approved as a legal procedure, it will eat its way into the very heart and structure of our society. Unless concerned citizens become involved and eradicate this dreadful plague, our nation faces a very grim future.

A THE TIME when our nation was founded, Thomas Jefferson penned these immortal words: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness...." If the Declaration of Independence was drafted as the basis for governing our country, then how is it that today we try to shower our citizens with liberty and happiness through "equality," while ignoring the first inalienable right—the right to life?

The "right to life" doesn't specify any age requirement. Yet the media, which is quick to respond to someone who it thinks is being discriminated against or unjustly incarcerated, will pounce with all the energy of a shark in a feeding frenzy on anyone working to protect the life of a baby. It seems that when it comes to unborn infants, this "inalienable right" has been and still is under attack.

From the very beginning, at the time of man's fall in the Garden of Eden, the human heart has been corrupt. Just as in the old fable of Pandora's box, Adam's sin released all the evil man could imagine. "Selfishness" took over to become the rule of life. Today the insistence that the quality of a woman's life supercedes in importance the life of child on its way to enter the world is an insidious expression of such "selfishness."

Over the years since abortion was ruled to be legal, people have sought ways to rationalize about the stigma of this murderous act by sugar-coating their thinking. The first one out of Pandora's box is called, "Me First." I wouldn't be financially able to take care of a baby. Besides, my schooling comes first. When this attitude dictates a person's thinking, abortion is made to look like a very viable option. The baby is never considered, of course, and the lifestyle and desires of the mother are awarded first priority.

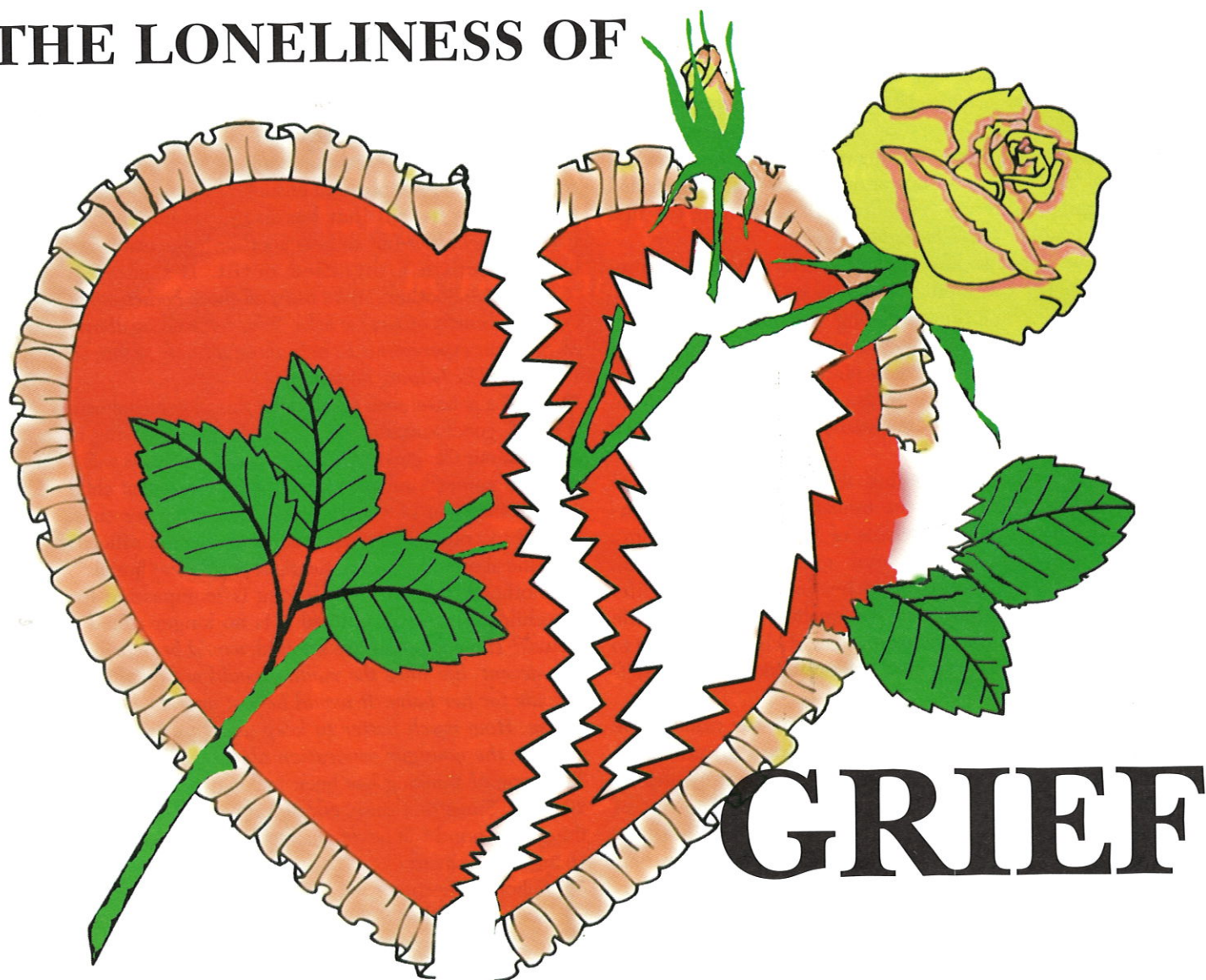
Next out of Pandora's box is so-called "human reason." Although this kind of "reason" is faulty through and through, it still raises its voice and cries: It's not a human being. It's just a mass of cells. There is no way it can be called a baby. Until it can live on its own, it is really nothing but a glob called a "fetus." But God's Word tells us, "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you..." (Jeremiah 1:4).

Regardless of what God says, humankind goes on year after year ignoring the fact that a baby is a precious life that is formed at conception. That child is alive! Yet the horrific killing of helpless infants continues to run rampant without any thought as to whether it's right or it's wrong. And the inalienable right of these most helpless of American citizens—their right to life—is denied and trampled upon.

"Reason" continues its warped argument that if you don't see the results of an abortion, you won't have any feelings of guilt. When an abortion is performed, the mother is never shown her aborted baby. It is slipped into a garbage can to be disposed of later. Why doesn't



# THE LONELINESS OF



**Grief is a very private emotion and no other person can fully understand another's suffering.**

*by Shirley Higgins*

**W**HEN MY HUSBAND Jim died of cancer in 1993, I felt as if my world had crashed about me. I remember...it felt as though half of my heart had been wrenched from me, torn out, and what was left was a gaping hole...a wound that needed to be healed.

As a widow in my sixties, what was I to do? The future looked bleak. How does one start over again, alone?

During the first year of my grief, a creeping lethargy threatened to destroy me. The "aleness" after being a couple for so many years was overwhelming. The

married friends that Jim and I had known and enjoyed socially remained in their own world of couples, and now I was out. My life had suddenly changed and, for me, things would never be the same again. Friends wanted me to stay the same; yet, I was being thrown back into the life of a "single" —and that dreaded word "widow" felt like a curse to me.

Is there any solution to the loneliness of grief? What can I say to those who are fresh in their grief and feel as though all purpose for living has vanished? Although it is difficult, there is a way out. The following are a few suggestions that have proven helpful to me:

1. *Come to grips with the reality of your loss.* Learn to accept it. I have spoken with widows and widowers alike who are living in a make-believe world, waiting for their spouse to return. Words that helped me in





*That dreaded word  
"widow" felt like  
a curse to me.*

the area of acceptance during those awful days of learning to be alone again were **"in acceptance lies peace."** Through the acceptance of my situation, and by making it an offering to God, He was able to transform my sorrow into something for the good of others.

2. *Experience the grief.* Is it painful to be alone after being with your spouse for many years? Yes! Many widows and widowers say that they "are keeping busy every night of the week" so they don't have to feel their sadness and the emptiness of being alone in their home. Sooner or later they will need to *experience their grief*. I chose to grieve hard that first year while learning to appreciate the quietness of my home and find out more about myself.

3. *Be realistic in your memories.* Accept the reality of both the ideal and the not-so-ideal (the good and the bad) within your marriage relationship. In the early tasks of grieving, it may be very painful to deal with the reality that your spouse was not perfect, that he or she *did* have a few flaws, which perhaps were a source of irritation and unhappiness. Accepting both parts (the good qualities along with the imperfections) will help tremendously in the healing process. In accepting the good and the bad, we are then able to move ahead in the grief process.

4. *Adjust to living alone.* This was very painful for me. Lethargy hit the hardest in this area. The myriad of things I had to learn to do for myself because I could no longer rely on my husband to do them, was overwhelming. Gradually, I learned how to fix the toilet, maintain my car, adjust the telephone answering machine, etc. I began to realize that starting again alone requires **energy, courage, and guts.** It was during this time of learning to adapt that I found this to be so true.

5. *Move on to a new life.* This requires a great amount of courage, time, and experimentation. Here

are some of the things that were helpful to me:

a) Reach out to others who are hurting and offer a word of encouragement.

b) Invest your time wisely. Have a written plan of your activities for that day. The tendency is to just get up and trudge along without any specific direction.

c) Reinvest the energies you had previously extended for your mate into different activities that involve others. Make a pot of soup for a neighbor, send flowers to someone who is lonely, write a word of comfort to a friend. These acts of kindness will be a catharsis for you while you are being a blessing to others.

d) Write about your grief. Getting the pain out of your heart and into a private journal is healing for some people.

e) Spend much time and quietness in prayer and reading God's Word. I began a study of the Psalms and Proverbs and found it to be a source of rich comfort: "A defender of widows is God in His holy dwelling" (Psalm 68:5). "He WILL establish the boundary of the widow" (Proverbs 15:25). Setting up a prayer journal and praying for other people has been a challenge for me. I believe it has been in these quiet times that I have moved forward. But it is a routine that requires discipline of the soul.

f) Seek the help of a qualified Christian counselor. My choice was a counselor who was trained in "grief counseling." It was very painful, but also extremely helpful to have someone with whom I could share my grief.

g) Volunteer your services in a Christian ministry, or find outside employment. This helps.

h) Be encouraged! What may seem dreadful in the beginning stages of grief may be stepping stones that God will use to lead you into a new life. Don't be afraid to venture out. Trust God to show you the way. He has a plan for you.

*Shirley Higgins is on the staff of the Narramore Christian Foundation.*



*Shirley with her late husband, Jim Higgins.*



# MAKING A DIFFERENCE

by Kevin Narramore

I BELIEVE THE END of the twentieth century will be remembered as a time when there was a marked shortage of great leaders. Our country used to be led by patriots and statesmen, many of them Christians. Sadly, today America seems to be guided by politicians and lobbyists.

In years past our schools were led by respected educators and many were Christians. Today there are far too many "academicians" who hide in their tenure boxes when they're not promoting relativism. Our business leaders are not taking the high ground on ethics. CEO's are receiving record-breaking multimillion-dollar salaries while their employees are being turned out. Too many of our volunteer institutions are led by leaders who are motivated by status and power, rather than vision and calling. *Good* leaders have become very scarce.

Just what constitutes a leader? According to the dictionary, a leader is "one who acts as a guiding force."

One of the best leadership studies I have come across was conducted in 1987 by two American teachers (Kauzes and Posner). They studied the success habits, behaviors, and attitudes of over 5,000 leaders from almost every conceivable walk of life. What they discovered about successful leaders is true for both those in Christian work, secular fields and, may I add, the Christian family. Here are the five success secrets revealed in their survey:

## 1. Challenging the Process.

Successful leaders have a mind-set of innovation. "We've always done it this way so why change" is not in their vocabulary. Their innovation, however, is not expressed in a harsh, abrasive "in your face" attitude, but positively and respectfully. The key, however, is that they think outside the box in order to consider how new approaches and ideas might fit into the big picture. A good leader is not set in cement. He is able to be flexible.

## 2. Inspiring a Shared Vision.

Outstanding great leaders have clear goals. To share them means having an in-depth understanding of the purposes and how they fit with the needs of that organization, business, or church. One general manager of a successful Christian radio station commented: "When I hire managers for the company I want to know if



*Dr. Kevin Narramore holds a Ph.D. in organizational psychology and is Executive Vice President of the Narramore Christian Foundation. He is a speaker and author of a recent book, PERSONALITY ON THE JOB.*

## SECRETS OF SUCCESSFUL LEADERSHIP

they truly understand the purpose of our organization. For example, do they understand that we are here to extend a teaching ministry and to spread the gospel? Can they articulate it back?"

One leader I interviewed recounted an experience working for the worst leader he had ever met. "This fellow had no vision, or if he did, he never expressed it. All he did was tell us 'you have to make budget'; we merely had to do our jobs. There was no challenge, no vision. We never got to share in the glory because we didn't know what the glory was."

3. **Enabling Others to Act.** A good leader spends time planning strategically for the future. American businesses often make yearly strategic plans. Some make five-year plans. Our Japanese competitors, however, are known to make 75-year and 150-year plans. Once plans are set in place, they can be revised and modified periodically, but this should be done in consultation with one's followers, or his staff, or with his family.

A good leader will spend time training, developing, motivating, and releasing a key group of co-workers to implement the vision. The leader's role is to guide and train followers; good leaders don't try to do everything themselves. It is only by turning loose of the controls and sharing the power of decision-making with others that a leader can be successful. One leader

I interviewed put it his way, "I used to work for a manager who was an authoritarian type. He never encouraged anything other than taking orders. Inwardly, I didn't want to do anything he told me to do."

When a good leader observes conflict among followers or co-workers, he does not wait long, but deals with the problem immediately. This fits well with the Bible verse which says, "Do not let the sun go down on your wrath" (Ephesians 4:26).

4. **Modeling the Way.** A good leader will say what he means and mean what he says, because people will remember if he is not consistent. So "let your 'yes' be 'yes' and your 'no' be 'no'" (James 5:12). The virtues of personal integrity involve setting an example, keeping one's word, and dealing fairly with everyone. Just as the Apostle Paul admonished Timothy to "be an example...in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity," so ought every Christian who holds a position of leadership. This also applies to parents as leaders of their own families.

We've all heard the phrase, "Absolute power corrupts absolutely." The more independence and influence a leader has, the more he will be tempted to abuse those privileges. He must be careful, for example, not to misuse company postage or take time off when it is not given. He will be known for not cutting corners. A good leader will make decisions that are best for the organization rather than for his own reward. Modeling the way is only effective when a leader makes the difficult, but *right* choices, not merely when it's easy to do right.

5. **Encouraging From the Heart.** Top leaders make a point of having regular contact with their employees or followers. They encourage. They have a genuine feeling for those they are leading. They know that *one* word of encouragement is more productive than a hundred criticisms.

A good leader is never a dictator. Although he doesn't budge an inch when it comes to principle, he leads as the Good Shepherd does—with love. "A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition" (II Timothy 2:24, 25).

Do you qualify as a good leader? □



# FORGET THE LABELS!

I'm glad Jesus referred to people as people.

by Joni Eareckson Tada



**P**EOPLE AND LABELS. They really don't go together. It's much nicer to just push aside the politically correct protocol, snip off the label, and look at each other as...people.

I tried this during a luncheon meeting with a group of inner city pastors from Chicago. I wheeled up to the discussion table already set with sandwiches and sodas — a few Joni and Friends (JAF) co-workers and I sat on one side of the table, and five pastors from black churches were on the other. My goal was to find out about the unique needs of disabled people living in an urban environment.

The pastors, from some of the liveliest, most community-concerned churches in Chicago, were anxious to discuss how they could best minister to families that included a child with a disability. As I talked about disabilities in ministry with the pastors, I couldn't help but wonder, "Latino." I decided then to ask the pastors how they wished to be addressed, whether black or African-American. To my surprise, they slapped the table and laughed out loud. Little did I realize, but the pastors were wrestling with questions of their own. During lunch, they watched me being fed a sandwich and wondered, "Now, when we refer to her, are we supposed to say the word 'handicapped'?" Or "physically challenged"? I know we're not supposed to refer to her as a cripple or an American."

by negative stereotypes. That's why one or two of the pastors preferred African-American. It's why I prefer the word disabled over a term like, let's say, handicapped. It's a matter of prudence — knowing what's appropriate in a given situation. More importantly, it's a matter of remembering the person rather than the appearance, abilities, race, or age.

Labels! I'm glad Jesus referred to people as people. He never referred to an individual He loved as a prostitute...He just called her Mary Magdalene. He never called Peter a coward. He only called him His friend. Jesus loved people. I'm sure that's why He often used their names when talking to them. "Peter, Peter..." He says at a moment of confrontation and forgiveness. "Martha, Martha..." He says at a moment of advice and counsel. And if there are any labels at all, He chooses ones like "dear friends" or "little children" or "my brothers."

Always and always, it's the name — not the label — that means the most to the person. Red or yellow, black or white, standing, sitting, blind or with sight. So just call me Joni!

□

Joni Eareckson Tada, speaker, writer, artist, and singer, has been paralyzed from the neck down since age seventeen. She heads up Joni and Friends, a California-based ministry, which collects, refurbishes, and delivers previously owned wheelchairs and other mobility equipment to people with disabilities around the world.



# MAKE UP YOUR MIND

**Decisive people are valuable because  
they get things done.**

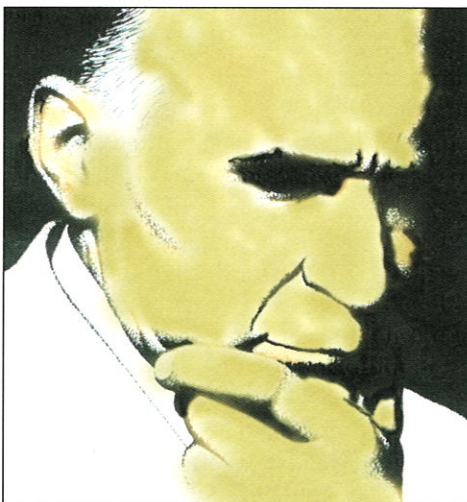
*by Vernon C. Lyons*

**D**ECISIVENESS IS THAT TRAIT of character which enables you to gather the facts and make a decision with reasonable promptness, announce that decision, and act upon it.

Balaam got into serious trouble because he was indecisive (Numbers 22:1-21). This was evidenced as he hesitated, thus keeping the issue open when he should have promptly settled it.

The Jews in Elijah's time were indecisive when they would not definitely determine to follow the Lord, so Elijah asked them, "How long will you waver between two opinions?" (1 Kings 18:21).

When the Israelites were undecided about whether to follow the Lord or a golden calf, Moses pressed them to be decisive, coming right to the point as he



asked, "Who is on the Lord's side?" (Exodus 32:26). Decisive Joshua spoke out immediately, saying, "As for me and

my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15). Decisiveness is demonstrated by Ruth as she chose to go with her mother-in-law and commit her life to God (Ruth 1:16).

Decisive people see opportunities and promptly seize them. Peter walked on water (Matthew 14:28,29), was first in the empty tomb (John 20:6), and proclaimed the Gospel to a great multitude at an opportune time (Acts 2:14-36).

Decisive people are valuable people because they get things done.

Decisive people don't jump to foolish conclusions. They base their decisions upon sound knowledge.

**1. Know what is right to do!** Promptly gather the facts and identify the issue. Learn from Scripture, seeking God's guidance as to what to do (Proverbs 3:5,6). You can be filled with certainty if you are solidly resting on God's infallible Word.

**2. Act on what you know.** Once you know what is right, then do not delay, but promptly take action.

**3. Stay with what you are doing.** Don't hesitate, vacillate, hedge, back off, change your mind, but stay with the right Scripture-based decision and action. Remember, "A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways" (James 1:8). You don't have to be that kind of wishy-washy wimp! You can be a strong, steadfast person of purpose. □

*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.*

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by Clyde M. Narramore

# TO WHAT EXTENT AM I OBLIGATED TO MEET MY MOTHER'S NEEDS?

## QUESTION:

*I am a married woman with my own children. I also have a mother who is very dependent on me, as well as extremely demanding. She is laden with personality problems and hang-ups. She lives alone, but tries to dominate and manipulate me and my family. The children have come to resent her.*

*To what extent should I feel obligated to help meet Mother's needs? She would like to move in with me and my family so we can take care of her. I guess the question boils down to this: Should I neglect my family and pay more attention to my mother, or should I put my own family first and feel guilty because I'm not doing what Mother wants?*

**ANSWER:**

Many people have ambivalent feelings about responsibilities to their parents. Women especially may feel that they ought to like their mothers, when actually deep inside, they really don't. Many write me who say in essence, "I love my mother (or my mother-in-law) BUT..." So you see, your problem is far from uncommon.

When considering a situation such as you have described, it is wise to view it from several perspectives: your mother's, your family's, and your own.

Your mother's feelings are real to her. They have been crystallizing for many years. Her attitudes undoubtedly stem from repeated experi-

ences during her own growing-up years. Her feelings seem right to her. She has her point of view, and has convinced herself that it is completely valid. In all likelihood she is unaware of her tendency to demand, dominate, and manipulate.

As you gain more understanding of your mother, you will be less prone to react to what she says and does—at least, not so strongly. In other words, when you see the whole picture, you'll be cued in to know why she feels the way she does. This will help you realize that you are not the problem. The reason she tries to dominate and manipulate you and your family is because she has unresolved conflicts in her own life. No doubt she has many deep hurts and resentments that have never been resolved. Although she behaves in an aggressive manner, she may still be basically insecure.

However, as a wife and mother, you have a responsibility to your own husband and family. The Bible says that when we get married, we are to leave and cleave: we should leave our parents and cleave to the person we have married.

The bottom line is that no matter how much pressure your mother exerts to get you to expend all your time and energy in meeting her demands, your husband and your children are really your number one concern. It would be wrong to jeopardize your relationship with them

around and be amenable to. Eventually she may come suggestion. But don't give up. mother may balk at such a two different things. Your willingness to get it may be for her problems, and her But wanting her to get help of her sweet spirit.

would be a blessing because as a well-adjusted person, she have someone living with her, dictate the need for her to your mother's health were to with your family. If in time, would not want to interfere well-adjusted, she probably And if she were to become would like to have around. happy person that others become the well-adjusted, counseling to help her mother to have professional course, would be for your The best solution, of is old" (Proverbs 23:22).

despise your mother when she Bible also says: "Do not 'honor' our parents. The The Bible commands us to responsibility to your mother. fact that you also have a family, you cannot ignore the you must care for your own you have outlined. Although affect solution to the problem. Naturally, there is no per-

entrusted this responsibility. are the one to whom God has for you. It's up to you. You and care for your children one else is going to train problems and hang-ups. No them well, they, too, will have do not guide and nurture dren will be grown, and if you parent. Before long your chil-

for the sake of an insensitive

seeking help.

In the meantime, encourage her to attend support groups and seminars, and to read materials that can give her insight. Put our magazine, LIVING, in her hands—order it for her so she receives it regularly. Little by little, as she begins to gain more understanding of the dynamics at work in her life, her attitude may improve!

## YOUR INFLUENCE LIVING FOREVER

□ *\* 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 Lee (and Gloria) Bendell

## GOD...AND COUNTRY

### Is There Still A Viable Connection?

I'M A "GOD AND COUNTRY" KIND OF PERSON! I spent a career in the U. S. Marine Corps. Then when I retired, I entered a second career serving the Lord in the ministries of the Narramore Christian Foundation.

My heart thrills to marching music, and I love the great hymns of the faith. My patriotism is stirred when I hear the Star Spangled Banner or see our country's flag waving in the breeze. I feel a deep spiritual reverence when I see a cross symbolizing the cross on which Christ died for my sins, or when a moving passage of Scripture is read.

In my personal testimony I usually describe a time in my military career when I seriously considered making a commitment to Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. Yet I hesitated, asking myself, *Can I be both a Christian and a career military officer? Is one compatible with the other?*

Scripture had answered other questions...and it answered this one also. The incident recorded in Matthew 8 gave me direction. In that portion it tells of a centurion—a Roman Army officer—who came to Jesus asking Him for help:

*"Lord," he said, 'my servant lies at home paralyzed and in terrible suffering.'*

*"Jesus said to him, 'I will go and heal him.'*

*"The centurion replied, 'I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it.'"*

When I share my personal experience, I often add, *"Then Jesus replied, 'Well, get out of the military and go into full-time Christian service, and I'll see what I can do about your servant.'"*

**No, that isn't what Jesus said!** In referring to this Roman officer, Jesus stated, *"I tell you the truth, I have not*

*found anyone in Israel with such great faith....' And his servant was healed at that very hour."*

This response convinced me that in God's eyes, not only could I continue in my military career, but I could be a dedicated Christian as well. So I invited Jesus Christ into my heart as my Lord and Savior—and was assured that it was God's will for me to continue with my military career.

However, in recent years I have had a growing concern about the interrelationship of one's evangelical faith with fervent patriotism. This foreboding is shared by many of God's people. In a recent article printed in *Christianity Today*, Charles Colson quotes David Smolin of Samford University: "Is American civil religion still viable? Or has America moved so far from 'Christian loyalties and values' as to fracture a 200-year tradition of religious patriotism?"

Colson goes on to describe how recent Supreme Court decisions on abortion have been "based on the arbitrary will of judges," and have "abandoned any notion of a higher law, whether divine law in revelation, or human law in our U. S. Constitution." Can God bless a nation where 4,000 human lives are sacrificed every day on the altar of abortion rights?

In his "Counselor's Corner" column in *Pulpit Helps*, Dr. Marlin Howe describes the present state of America's families: "In the past 30 years the divorce rate has doubled, illegitimate births have tripled, single mothers have risen 130 percent, and one in five children lives with just one parent."

We need only read the daily newspapers to be impressed by the many pressures brought to bear to accept homosexuality as a viable alternative lifestyle. Yet God's Word clearly calls such behavior an "abomination" that is punishable by death (Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13).

Unfortunately, today the very values that have comprised our evangelical her-

itage and which, until recently, were part of our American culture, are under attack. Many describe these current trends as a *moral crisis*. In addition to the acceptance of abortion, divorce, and homosexuality, our streets are no longer safe and our homes are no longer secure. Crime increases, racism and social disintegration are widespread—especially in the inner city. Drugs and alcohol are now being used by an ever-younger population, and sex, immorality, and violence are blatantly portrayed on television, in movies, newspapers, and magazines.

As we hold to our Christian values we feel deep concern for the country we love. "What," we ask, "can we do to halt these dreadful trends?" One alternative is to retreat (a horrible word for a person with a military background) into the security of Christian friends and activities. However, we cannot completely escape from the world about us, even if that is our choice.

Certainly, we have a responsibility to make use of our citizenship by exercising our right to vote. But we need to carefully study each candidate and all the issues so we can choose leaders who share our Christian convictions.

We also need to take a stand for the principles we believe in, whether at work, or just in casual social contacts.

As Christians, one of the most effective things we can do is to *pray*. God says in II Chronicles 7:14: *"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 will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."*

***Lord, help us to be faithful in praying for our nation and its leaders. Forgive our shortcomings, and show us how to do those things that will help bring healing to America and to the world. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.*** □

*Scripture quotations are from the NIV.*



# OUR WORLD TODAY

by Eva Hallam Solberg



## ACTIVE IN EVERY NATION

Evangelism Explosion International is the first Christian organization in history to establish its ministry in all 211 nations of the world. The organization, founded in 1962 by Presbyterian minister Dr. D. James Kennedy, seeks to spread the gospel by equipping pastors, evangelists, and lay people through leadership training clinics and seminars in local churches. Penetrating various cultures has been a challenging task for the staff, especially in areas that display little interest in Christianity, but God is using this ministry.

*(Evangelism Explosion III International newsletter)*

## GOLDEN ARCHES

### MORE WIDELY RECOGNIZED THAN CROSS

The McDonald's logo — an arched M — and the shell used by an international petroleum company ranked higher in recognizability than the Christian cross, according to a survey of 7,000 people in six countries.

*(Contact)*

## WOMEN'S MAGAZINES MOVING TOWARD THE RIGHT

Some big circulation publications geared to women are now beginning to cautiously introduce more articles with a conservative slant...reflecting traditional values.

This rightward trend follows two decades in which these publications had abandoned such basic subjects of interest to women as fashion, cooking, child-rearing, and

## EASIER TO OPEN CHILD-RESISTANT CAPS

New child-resistant caps may require less strength but more coordination, such as a two-step process of pressing down tabs while twisting.

These skills are still difficult for young children.

Manufacturers have until January 1998 to meet the revised standards of the U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's child-resistant caps.

Testers, who used to be between fifteen and forty-five years old, will now be chosen between fifty and seventy years old. This should help.

*(Mayo Clinic Health Letter)*

## BEWARE OF PHONE SCAMS

Eavesdropping on cellular and cordless phone calls has

"Character is what you are in the dark."  
—Dwight L. Moody

become a major new hobby. Since these phones rely on radio signals, people are using scanners — portable, walkie-talkie-sized receivers that pick up thousands of frequencies. These allow them to eavesdrop while driving or walking around. Best defense: Never discuss confidential personal or business matters on cordless or cellular phones.

*(Bottom Line Personal)*

## CHRISTIAN HISTORY HIT

Pocahontas, the Disney film about the Indian maiden and Captain John Smith, depicted Pocahontas as having a nature-loving worship of peaceful and wise earth spirits, until greedy white men arrived on the scene.

The real Pocahontas, however, turned from her pagan, bloody, sacrifice-demanding Indian religion to become a Christian. The Indians around Jamestown, according to Captain Smith's diary, worshipped a "chief god" called Oke who required a yearly sacrifice of fifteen boys

between the ages of ten and fifteen in return for blessing the tribe's hunting, fishing, and husbandry. After the introduction of Christianity, many of the tribes people left their old heathen ways to follow Christ. In fact, there is an evangelical church in Virginia

## POLITICALLY CORRECT BIBLE RELEASED

A politically correct version of the New Testament published by Oxford University Press eliminates sexist references to avoid giving offense to feminists. God the Father has become "father-mother," and the Son of God is now the "child of God" or the "human one." The Lord's Prayer now begins, "Our Father-Mother in heaven." Darkness is no longer associated with evil, because of possible racist overtones. For the same reason, the new version eliminates any suggestion that Jews were involved in killing Jesus.

*(good news, etc)*

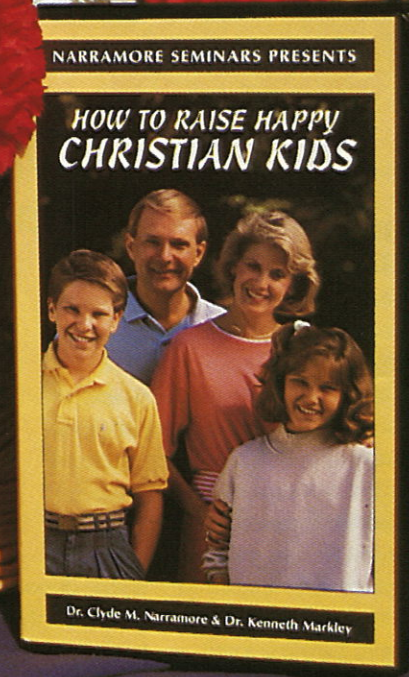
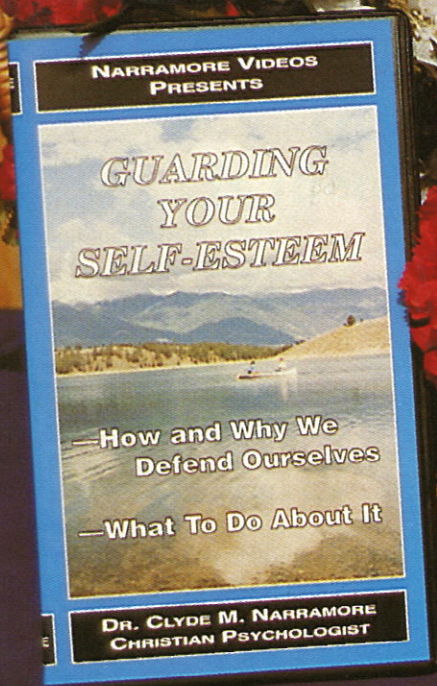
*Ed. note: Perhaps the revisionists never got around to reading Revelation 22:18 and 19.*

## DRAMATIZATION OF AUCA MARTYRS

A play depicting the 1956 deaths of five missionaries at the hands of Ecuador's Auca tribe will begin its tour of the United States in September. Officials selected the story because of its influence on missions work during the last four decades.

*Dayuma*, named for the play's central character, is being sponsored by Wycliffe Bible translators as part of a program designed to foster interest in Bible translation and a commitment to take the gospel of Christ to those who have not heard.





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But many of us have feelings that do not fit in with a positive profile. To compensate, we often unconsciously develop ways to protect ourselves. These defense mechanisms can impair our relationships with others, as well as with the Lord.

In this video, Dr. Clyde Narramore discusses 14 defenses that many of us use to guard our self-esteem, and shows how to resolve them so we can be our best for the Lord. This valuable insight will help you to better understand yourself as well as those with whom you associate.

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