

Hearth to Hearth

Woman to Woman



Vol. 5, No. 1

“And ye are complete in him.” Colossians 2:10

Jan./Feb. 2002

Hearth Flames



*The
New Year*

God make your year a happy one—
Not by shielding you from all sorrow and pain, but
by strengthening you to meet it if it comes.
Not by making your path easy, but by making you
sturdy enough to tread any path.
Not by taking hardship from you, but by taking all
cowardice and fear from your heart as you
meet hardship.
Not by granting you unbroken sunshine, but by
keeping your face bright even in the shadows.
Not by making your life always pleasant, but by
showing you where man and his cause need
you most by making you zealous to be there
and to help.
Not by keeping you from battle, but by bringing
you off every field more than conqueror
through Christ who loves you.
God make your year a happy one!

Author Unknown

A New Year's Message

Another year I enter,
It's history unknown;
Oh, how my feet would tremble
To tread its paths alone.
But I have heard God's whisper;
I know I shall be blest—
“My presence shall go with thee,
And I will give thee rest.”

What will the new year bring me?
I may not, must not, know;
Will it be love and rapture,
Or loneliness and woe?
Hush! Hush! I hear His whisper;
I surely shall be blest—
“My presence shall go with thee,
And I will give thee rest!”

Selected

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Editorial

New Beginnings

Alice Fredrick

December ends and January begins. With it a new beginning, a new year, a new resolve. With the upsets and anxieties of the last few months and of our world in general, I find my only peace in my quiet time with my LORD. He is my solace, my stabilizer and my encouragement. As I finish my prayer time with Him and prepare to return to the life of rush and demands of the world I take His quiet peace along to help me through the day until I can again be with Him.

Another new beginning is the content of this newsletter. In loving God and doing His bidding, and in His completeness, we are reaching out to the orphans. As a newborn baby who is helpless and seeking, so are the orphans reaching out to anyone who will clothe them, feed them, love them and just help them. They are alone without mother or father. They are defenseless in this world of lawlessness and greed. It takes a loving and kind heart to reach out. Our readers are that kind of people. We thank you for reaching out with hearts and arms open to embrace them so readily. Let the orphans be our mission outreach.

You will see a bit of a new look to the newsletter; new in staff, new in content, new in outreach. Let us know if there is anything that you would like changed, or added. We value your input.

From the staff of *Hearth to Hearth* to you, the reader, we pray His love will abundantly fill you and keep you in His remembrance always.

[Alice is a new member of our editorial staff. She writes from Phoenix, Arizona.]

MAIL CALL:

I've wanted to let you know how much I've enjoyed *Hearth to Hearth*. I didn't have a chance to read the first several issues when they arrived, so it has been in just the last few months that I've had a chance to get into them. All the articles have been so uplifting to the soul! Thank you for sharing these inspiring thoughts with other homemakers. Your articles on the sanctuary have been an inspiration. May your periodical continue to bless women and homemakers everywhere. I would love to continue to be on your mailing list. The enclosed check can help with postage, etc. *Tennessee*

Dear sister, I was doubting to do this request, but I feel in my heart, just to do it, taking Jeremiah 33:3, Luke

1:37 and Jeremiah 32:17; based on that, I will do it.

We used to have a computer. It was old, but was working. But now my brother took it, because it was his; he let us use it. But now he is in the university and he took it back. We have so much work to do and without a computer it is impossible. We are working now with an old word processor but it is not enough.

So my request to you, dear sister, is that if you, among the sisters, could raise an offering to purchase a computer here.

Here in Peru it is not that easy. Just to give you a testimony: I, as a teacher, made a little bit over one hundred dollars a month, and most of my income goes into the work here in Peru. My

tithes, offerings and printing work. Every diskette costs a dollar; and just to give you an example, to do the work of translating one tract, not having the computer, gave me an expense of renting a computer for 14 hours at the cost of a dollar an hour, plus 25 cents for every printing page. Brother Aland told me that this is not like the USA; here they don't have computers in the libraries. This is sad; to see a country where they live under the curse.

That is why my request goes to you my blessed sisters. I know God is still blessing the USA because of brothers and sisters like you that are obedient to the Word of God. I am trusting to the Lord for this request, that our Father in heaven will pour love into your hearts, so we may continue the work of the Lord here. *Peru*

[Brother and Sister Aland Ashton translate many Gospel tracts into the Spanish language and distribute them wherever they can. They are hard workers for the Lord under very trying circumstances. If you would like to contribute to this project, just send it to us at *Hearth to Hearth* and mark it for Peru. We will see that it gets to them. Thank you. Editor]

I enjoy your paper every month. It is encouraging and uplifting. I especially enjoyed last month's [Sept./Oct.] "Wee Wit & Wisdom." They were hilarious! As soon as I read them I went laughing to read them to my Mom!

West Virginia

There was a blessing in each of the articles in the Sept./Oct. issue of *Hearth to Hearth*. I was especially impressed by "My Frowning God," by Milli Lewis. I could relate to it. While "my" God hasn't been exactly a frowning God, He has certainly seemed remote and not very interested in what was going on in my life. I've known it wasn't supposed to be that way, and that the fault was somehow in me, but how to fix it was beyond my comprehension or ability. This article has been helpful to me. *Tennessee*

I especially appreciated your article in the Nov./Dec. Issue titled, "Let Our Mission be the Orphans," which has impressed my heart to help this orphanage in Kenya. Please use the enclosed gift of \$__ for this purpose.

Also, the \$__ is to help your costs of printing and mailing.

The article on "Day Break" also was so heart rending. Do keep up the good work with the Lord's blessings, and thank you. *Pennsylvania*

Thank you for your bi-monthly magazine, *Hearth to Hearth*. Your Nov./Dec. 2001 issue told of your new endeavor, "Let Our Mission be the Orphans." This is a most worthy goal on your part and I'm sure the Lord will richly bless you in this outreach.

We would like to assist you in your mission by sending you \$__ monthly as we disburse the funds we have set aside for monthly distribution. Enclosed is our first check.

Thank you for letting us know of this great need. We will be watching your progress in this new Christian action on your part. [We] are happy to lend our assistance to this worthy enterprise. *Florida*

Thanks for your lovely *Hearth to Hearth* of Nov./Dec. There are so many needs that it is overwhelming but I want to help. I am sending you a gift for Reuben to take the driving course that is needed. I am praying that he is a worthy student. I also want to help out with the other children. I think that I can send \$__ a month to sponsor a child... I am sure that the Lord will provide my needs.

When I was a junior in High School a pastor and his wife took me in to live with them one year. This was not only a blessing but I grew spiritually that year. The Lord is so good. Praise His name.

Arizona

Thank you so much for taking the time to prepare and send your *Hearth to Hearth*. We both appreciate your articles and comments and researches on the Internet and in your own life experiences.

Good courage to all and to Grace Cox for her sticktoitiveness in spite of... [sic] *Canada*

I am taking [my friend] my copy of *Hearth to Hearth* tomorrow. She finds it inspirational and she hasn't seen the latest issue.

I especially liked the article, "Don't We All" in the latest edition. It brought to my mind a similar situation when I was driving taxi in Billings some years ago. I was parked on a skidrow street where a 'sober drunk' walked up to my driver's side window. I spoke to him

and he said, "Ma'am, you know I'm just a drunk. I'm not going to tell you I'm hungry, but I do need a drink real bad." I remembered my dear Christian grandmother giving my Uncle George a drink when he needed it, one time when I visited her in California. I appreciated this bum's honesty, and I understood that need, and I did give him a dollar.

I enjoy the personal testimonials and the personal glimpses into the lives of your reading audience. The stories of the orphans are indeed heartbreaking. I feel bad that I can't be more supportive in all these causes. Being a person on a low, fixed income has its drawbacks as far as helping in these important causes. *Montana*

[We appreciate hearing from those of you who can't help out with "causes," also. God has not blessed us all with the same gifts or talents. If He has only given us the ability to pray, we can use *that* gift to His glory. It is truly the best gift to give for others. Editor]

There was only one thing I saw [in the article, "An Attitude of Gratitude"] that I was not fond of. I don't like the NIV or any of the new translations of the Bible. They change or leave out the deity of Jesus. I am studying Bibles right now at the present, as in the past; I am KJV only. Only problem is that some can't understand it.

I sent or gave out all the newsletters you sent me... I am sending \$__. Use it for postage or give it to them [the orphans] for food. I will leave it up to you. *Arizona*

[We would be happy to supply extra issues, or back issues, to anyone else who is interested in giving them to others. Editor]

Hi, my name is ____... I am interested in receiving, on a bi-monthly basis, a copy of *Hearth to Hearth*. I appreciate you and your time.

Virgin Islands

I appreciate so much receiving *Hearth to Hearth*... I would like to know more about the work Brother Lawrence is doing with the orphanage. Do you know that the money sent actually helps the orphans—or as other money sent to Africa has been kept by the ones there receiving it, never reaching the project it was sent for.

I have a friend missionary who has known that funds sent have been used

Our Method:

Hearth to Hearth is published bi-monthly and sent free upon request. Voluntary donations are appreciated.

Our Mission:

Believing that we can find completeness in all areas of our lives only "in him, who is the head of all principality and power" (Colossians 2:10), it is the mission of *Hearth to Hearth* to provide a forum for Christian women to reach out to each other in friendship, joy and hope; and to encourage each other to find our completeness in Christ as we sojourn here on our way to the kingdom. By this completeness in Christ we become better wives, mothers, daughters, homemakers, neighbors and friends. As an outgrowth of this completeness, we will desire to share the love of God through our efforts to meet the needs of others and to relieve the suffering of those for whom Christ died.

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by the pastors and office personnel—not its intended use.

Enclosed is \$__ for the mission to the orphans... The extra \$__ is to help in sending out *Hearth to Hearth*.

Tennessee

[We appreciate your concerns. After spending over two months with Brother Lawrence and checking things out every way we knew, including sending friends from Uganda over to visit, we are confident that the need is great and that the money is going to help the children. Editor.]

PRAYER CALL:

1) Please pray for my son. He stripped and put primer paint on my other son's car, in Colorado. He wore gloves and a respirator, but still absorbed so many toxic chemicals that he has been having diarrhea for over 2 ½ months... He worked for months in a re-chroming shop and the toxins he picked up there, plus the solvent metal cleaner he used on his brother's car, really hurt him. We need prayer for his body and soul.

2) I was very encouraged by the praise report in your Nov./Dec. *Hearth to Hearth*. I know that what God did for that lady's son He can do for my children as well. So please pray the same prayer for my children, Brian, Dana, Ken and Elizabeth—that the Lord will help them and turn their hearts to the truths of His Word.

3) Thank you so much for praying for our friend. [See prayer request number 2, Nov./Dec.] His wife wrote: "He got the report back today and he is cancer free. We are going to St. Louis tomorrow to complete his surgical procedure. All that is left is for them to remove the mole and close up the wound. He will get the stitches out from his dermatologist here.

"God is so wonderful and loving. All of your prayers were heard by our Heavenly Father and His Dear Son. We love all of you so much. Prayers by faithful Christians are heard by God, and He loves us so much and hears our pleas and sees our tears. We cannot thank HIM enough. God bless each of you, and we in return are praying for all of you. God knows what you need, and all we can do is pray that it be His will. Take care and know we love you."

4) My dear friend... had a setback with her cancer... When I spoke to her by telephone this evening, she said she is not in nearly the pain she has been in for so long. Please remember her in your prayers.

5) God truly answers prayer. Just early Sabbath morning I was praying for God's children throughout the world, asking how I can help those in need, stating to Him that I, myself, didn't have much but what I had I was willing to share. Then you [Brother Lawrence from Kenya] showed up, and spoke of the water tank needed for your children. What a joy that filled my soul. I was almost not able to contain my tears. My prayer was answered, and in such a shortness of time!

I'm praying that the rest of yours will be answered in such speediness. May the grace of God be with you always.

EDITOR'S NOTES:

» **OOPS! We goofed!** Last month we printed the wrong phone number and e-mail address for our readers to communicate with us. Please take note of our new information box (in the left-hand column of page 3) which lists our correct contact information, our new staff members and also includes our mission statement. We apologize for any inconvenience this error may have caused.

» **We wish to clarify** that we have not changed the focus of our ministry as stated in our mission statement. The Orphan project is an *outreach mission*—an *outgrowth* of the love that we receive from God when we become complete in Him. This completeness *should* cause us to change our direction from focusing on *our own* needs, to being able to see and respond to the needs of *others*.

In this issue we have used three-and-a-half pages to attempt to document for you the needs that exist. We do not intend to take up this much space for this project in every issue. Our main focus continues to be the enrichment of women, that we all might become complete in Christ.

» **A special thank you** to those who gave so willingly of their time and talents to keep *Hearth to Hearth* coming to your mailboxes last year: Grace

Cox, Kendra Beachy, Onycha Holt, Pat Kroeger, Milli Lewis, Dorothy Manning, Jennifer Priddy, and Dee Stringfellow. Many of these ladies have now become part of our staff. We are glad you are still on board.

We wish to also welcome my husband, George McDaniel, as well as Alice Fredrick and Victoria Kritzell. You will get to know each of our staff members better as we progress through the year. We pray we will have a prosperous New Year as we make our commitment to enriching the lives of our readers.

» **Moving?** Please don't forget to notify us of your new address so you won't miss any issues. It also saves us money as the Post Office charges 60 cents for an address change notice and \$1.41 if they return a newsletter. Thank you for your help in keeping our costs down.

Wee Wit & Wisdom

A mother took her three-year-old daughter to church for the first time. The church lights were lowered, and then the choir came down the aisle, carrying lighted candles. All was quiet until the little one started to sing in a loud voice, "Happy Birthday to you..."

From the Internet

(Continued from page 5)

What a joy to make a new friend and to share your faith! We have already had a nice phone conversation with invitations both ways for visits.

Our decisions and choices that we make every day are so important. We never should leave our precious Savior out of these decisions and choices. He has so many good experiences out there just waiting for us.

Many years ago, a friend told Bill and me that he never made any decision, whether at work or at home, that he didn't ask the Lord about first. I never forgot that.

May all our decisions and choices this New Year be made with the Lord as our Guide and Best Friend!



[Dee writes from her mountain home in Spencer, Tennessee, where she has the most beautiful view out her kitchen window.]

Meek and Lowly of Heart

Onycha Holt

The birds were already awake outside her door, scolding her for sleeping so late. Jacob, next door, was noisily loading his cart for market. Slowly she rolled onto her hands and knees, and then carefully stood up, steadying herself on her stool as she did so. She straightened her tunic and tightened the girdle she had loosened the night before as she had lain down to sleep. Tomorrow she would change and wash this one, but for today it would have to do. She opened her door so light could filter in...



Let's see... she needed to grind some barley for herself, and visit Elizabeth who had been sick. Elizabeth might need flat bread baked also. Then there was little Reuben. She would watch him while his mother went to market. She had her hands full enough with Simeon and Mary anyway. Water had to be drawn for blind Joshua and, while she was at it, she would straighten up a bit and make sure there were some lentil soup and figs laid out for his evening meal. Then it would be time for her to return home and put some lentils and a handful of barley on to cook for herself. Maybe Melania would let her come by a couple of days next week to make the new silk cloak she had mentioned she needed. Her supply of lentils and barley was getting very meager...

Melania... she was just rising as Johanna knocked on Elizabeth's door. Her servants were heating water for her to bathe in before they dressed her.

Let's see... today Eli the scribe was coming by to teach Zach and Ziphriam more from the sacred writings. Today's lesson was on proper Sabbath observance. Very important. A fruit tray should be set out with dates, figs, grapes, raisins, and pomegranates. Almonds and pistachios could be scattered around the edges. Leah should go to market right away to see if any melons had arrived from Egypt yet. Wouldn't that impress Eli? Rhoda would have to set out her best silk cloak, the blue one with wide sleeves, and the matching light blue slippers. The blue and gold veil would look nice, but her hair will have to be rebraided and the gold headband woven in.

Then this afternoon she and Susanna would need to go to the fabric stall and purchase a few yards of the beautiful yellow and red silk she had seen there last week. She needed a new cloak to wear when she went to the women's court at Herod's Temple. Her old clothes just wouldn't do. I wonder if Johanna could help me out next week with sewing it...

And so Johanna and Melania went through the day, accomplishing the goals they each had set out to do. As evening approached, Johanna slipped into the women's court at the temple on her way home. She had a few coins she wanted to leave in one of the thirteen treasure chests. Adonai had given her so much and had been so good to her; she just had to give something in return. She didn't want to forget Him as her day drew to a close, but it was always so hard for her to come here. Even though there were thirteen chests to choose from, always there were well-dressed men and women in long robes and costly array standing around, greeting each other with pleasantries and stately show. She just didn't seem to fit in with her rough woolen tunic, her coarse cloth

girdle, and a plain veil over her bowed head. Nevertheless, she came because God was more important to her than whatever man might say about her. Quietly she slipped her two coins in, and then just as quietly, and quickly, she slipped out.

Unknown to her were the loving eyes of Jesus. The wondrous Gift of heaven was watching the scene in one of His rare moments of sitting quietly on the sidelines. He was searching for someone like Himself, someone who was willing to give his or her all, just as He, on a much grander scale, had given His all. With great satisfaction, He measured the meek and quiet spirit of this poor widow. He, who Himself is meek and lowly of heart, recognized this beautiful jewel among the brash imitations filling the women's court. Of all the people milling around, she was the one He honored and praised. She was the one most like Himself, and her offering was the one He blessed.

She did not come seeking honor and recognition, but she left highly honored and is recognized even today. It is true Jesus only mentions her sacrifice of two mites, but I like to think her whole life was a sacrifice, just as Christ's was. Such is an ornament of great price, such is our wonderful Saviour, and such is the longing of a meek and lowly heart.



[Onycha is a mental health counselor and social worker living in Camden on Gauley, West Virginia. She has three children and one grandchild.]

Widow's Mite

I sometimes fret because I feel
My gift's so very small;
Perhaps it would be just as well
If I gave not at all.
And then, I stop and tell myself
I know that is not right,
Though what I have to give to God
May be a "widow's mite."
I know that I must give to Him,
For He gave all for me;
And so, I'll give my "widow's mite"
To God—most cheerfully!

Roy Wilkins

The Fall and Restoration of Eve

Part I

Esther McDaniel

There is a story near the beginning of the very first book of the Bible that deserves close scrutiny by every daughter of Eve. In the third chapter of the book of Genesis is recorded the sad account of an event that instantly changed the course of history for God's universe, the earth and the beings that God had created in His own image.

In our devotionals this year, we plan to examine this story to see what we can learn from Eve's experience so that in our own lives, by God's grace and to His glory, we can regain what she lost.

"Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat." (Genesis 3:1-6)

What was Eve's first mistake? God had said: "Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." (Genesis 2:16, 17)

So what was Eve doing by that tree?! God had given Eve a duty to perform. She was given the lovely Garden of Eden, fresh from the Creator's hand, and told to be her husband's help meet in dressing and keeping it. (Genesis 2:15, 18) If she had been busy doing the work God had given her to do, in keeping the Garden in its beautiful state, she would not have become distracted by this one tree that God had withheld.

What about *us*? Will we follow her example? Or will we choose to follow Christ's? What does God require of *us*? What is the work He has given *us* to do?

God's law is plain. He has explicitly told us, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." (Exodus 20:3) He also tells us, "And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." (Deuteronomy 6:5-7)

How can I love God with *all* my heart and have God's Word *in* my heart while I am continually feasting and meditating on other themes? Can I teach God's law to my children if I am disregarding it myself?

Dear sisters, there is only one way to obey God and it begins with the first step. Each choice I make, from the biggest, such as choosing a career or a life's mate, to the smallest, as in choosing a book to read or how I am going to spend my afternoon, must be made with one question in mind—am I making this choice out of love for God; will it bring glory to Him?

I cannot be distracted by the luscious-looking fruit (or baubles) hanging on the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil! The fruit from this tree contains a slow, insidious poison! Though God's judgments seem to be delayed at times, they will surely come.

God's Word is full of instruction for those who truly want to follow Him, but we cannot follow Him unless we meditate on His law, His requirements, His will "day and night." (Psalm 1:2) It will not be in our heart, nor in the hearts of our children, unless we put forth that effort and blind our eyes to anything that would distract us from this duty.

Do we, like Eve, fall into temptation because we neglect our God-given duties and linger in forbidden territory? Do we think that it is okay to be curious in areas where God says, "Thou shalt not...?"

God has a remedy: "But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof." (Romans 13:14)

LESSON #1: In order to keep from sinning against God and reclaim for ourselves the victory that Eve lost, we need to be so busy doing the work that God has given us to do that we *stay far away from forbidden fruit!*



150 Ways to Show Children That You Care

Author Unknown

Notice them. Smile a lot. Acknowledge them. Learn their names. Seek them out. Remember their birthday. Ask them about themselves. Look in their eyes when you talk to them. Listen to them. Play with them. Read aloud together. Giggle together. Be nice. Say yes a lot. Tell them their feelings are okay.

Set boundaries that keep them safe. Be honest. Be yourself. Listen to their stories. Hug them. Forget your worries sometimes and concentrate only on them. Notice when they're acting differently.

Present options when they seek your counsel. Play outside together. Surprise them. Stay with them when they are afraid. Invite them over for juice. Suggest better behaviors when they act out. Feed them when they are hungry. Delight in their discoveries. Share their excitement. Send them a letter or postcard. Follow them when they lead. Notice them when they are absent. Call them to say hello. Hide surprises for them to find. Give them space when they need it. Contribute to their collections.



Discuss their dreams and nightmares. Laugh at their jokes. Be relaxed. Kneel, squat or sit so you're at their eye level. Answer their questions. Tell them how terrific they are. Create a tradition with them and keep it.

Learn what they have to teach. Use your ears more than your mouth. Make yourself available. Show up at their concerts, games and events. Find a common interest. Hold hands during a walk. Apologize when you've done something wrong. Listen to their favorite music with them. Keep the promises you make. Wave and smile when you part. Display their artwork in your home.

Thank them. Point out what you like about them. Clip magazine pictures or articles that interest them. Give them lots of compliments. Catch them doing something right. Encourage win-win solutions. Give them your undivided attention. Ask for their opinion.

Have fun together. Be curious with them. Introduce them to your friends and family. Tell them how much you like being with them. Let them solve most of their own problems. Meet their friends. Meet their parents. Let them tell you how they feel. Help them become an expert at something. Be excited when you see them. Tell them about yourself. Let them act their age. Praise more, criticize less. Be consistent.

Admit when you make a mistake. Enjoy your time together. Give them a special nickname. Marvel at what they can do. Tell them how proud you are of them. Pamper them. Unwind together. Be happy. Ask them to help you. Support them. Applaud their successes. Deal with problems and conflicts while they are still small. Chaperone an outing. Tell them stories in which they are the hero. Believe in them. Nurture them with good food, good words and good fun. Be flexible. Delight in their uniqueness. Let them make mistakes. Notice when they grow. Wave and

honk when you drive by them. Give them immediate feedback. Include them in conversations. Respect them. Join in their adventures.

Visit their schools. Help them learn something new. Be understanding when they have a difficult day. Give them good choices. Respect the choices they make. Be silly together. Hang out together. Make time to be with them. Inspire their creativity. Accept them as they are. Become their advocate. Appreciate their personality. Talk openly with them. Tolerate their interruptions. Trust them. Share a secret. Write a chalk message on their sidewalk. Create a safe, open environment. Be available. Cheer their accomplishments. Encourage them to help others. Tackle new tasks together.

Believe what they say. Help them take a stand and stand with them. Daydream with them. Do what they like to do. Make decisions together. Magnify their magnificence. Build something together. Encourage them to think big. Celebrate their firsts and lasts, such as first school day. Go places together. Welcome their suggestions. Visit them when they're sick. Tape record a message for them. Help them learn from their mistakes. Be sincere. Introduce them to people of excellence. Tell them what you expect of them. Give them your phone number. Introduce them to new experiences.

Share a meal together. Talk directly together. Be spontaneous. Expect their best; don't expect perfection. Empower them to help and be themselves.

Love them no matter what.



[These helpful suggestions are courtesy of www.coffeeintherain.com]

Life after 9-11

Pat Kroeger

Life will never be the same. Not since the day America reeled in stunned horror as wave after wave of terror hit home. Nameless, faceless enemies—enemies most of us didn't even know we had—orchestrated an attack of historical proportions, not against armies and weaponry, but upon thousands of unsuspecting men, women, and children. Words cannot describe the nightmare. Firsthand witnesses confessed that television could not do justice to a scene that some can only describe as apocalyptic. Yet, for the rest of us it couldn't possibly have been any more real. Thanks to television and the art of modern technology, it might as well have been right in our own back yard: so upclose and personal we could almost smell the smoke.

Literally thousands of people woke up September 11, 2001, with no thought or knowledge that it would be their last breakfast, their last hug goodbye, or their last argument before slamming out the door. Whatever their morning was like, whatever choices they made, whatever direction they set their hearts on that fateful morning was soon forever sealed in silence.



For many of us left in the wake of America's worst terrorist attack there are many emotions to deal with. From here, the future may seem full of uncertainty and unknown fear. How could the impossible happen here, here in the land of the free and the home of the brave? Will we ever feel safe again? Will terrorism become a way of life here as in other countries? Why did God allow this to happen? As a Christian nation, we should have more answers, more understanding. Instead we're haunted by questions. Even "America's Pastor" confessed before an assembly of

top political leaders on the National Day of Prayer and Remembrance that he didn't have any answers either.

Amid the fear and uncertainty, God has provided us the understanding and discernment we need for the times in which we live. It is in understanding the whys and the hows that we can deal with the emotions and find the peace we need. That understanding is found in God's Word, the Bible, the bulwark of defense between the believer's peace and the unbeliever's fear.

Finding Perfect Peace

Without God, the unbeliever stands alone against a world of hate and vengeance. As the saying goes, "he who holds the biggest gun makes the rules." That would leave out all but a select few. So, while their handgun may give them a false sense of security against a home intruder, it holds nothing against the unseen foe of terrorism. By its very name its intention is to incite terror in the hearts of its victims. The unbeliever is left to depend on others for security against this formidable threat, most likely the government or the military. But this follows an era of lost trust in the government. With nowhere else to turn for help, the unbeliever has no choice but to abandon himself into the hands of the state, which may explain the ever growing epidemic of depression and despair. "We looked for peace, but no good came; and for a time of health, and behold trouble!" (Jeremiah 8:15)

On the other hand, the true believer can find comfort and safety in an almighty God. "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee." (Isaiah 26:3) The believer's trust rests in a supreme Being who loves them as a tender-hearted Father, and fills their heart with peace. (See 1 John 3:1) "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love." (1 John 4:18) There is no need for fear because God knows all things and cannot be caught off-guard. (Isaiah 46:9-10; 1 John 3:20) But God not only knows all things, there is nothing He can't do. "I have made the earth, and created man upon it: I, even my hands, have stretched out the heavens, and all their host have I commanded. I have raised him up in righteousness, and I will direct all his ways..." (Isaiah 45:12-13) With a depth of love and power that cannot be equaled, our heavenly Father watches jealously over us. "For thus saith the LORD of hosts ... he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye." (Zechariah 2:8)

Getting a handle on our emotions is only the first step in the healing process. To understand more about the whys and hows will require a closer look at an issue we've become acutely awakened to in recent days: freedom.

The Land of the Free

The one characteristic that America has had over every other nation on earth is its foundation on the principles of freedom. But freedom does not come without great cost. It was by blood that freedom was bought, it has been by blood that freedom has endured; freedom against tyranny and religious intolerance; the freedom of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness"; FREEDOM! Generous souls long ago fought the enemy against the odds and died for the right of liberty. They willingly spilled their blood not only for those closest to them, but also for the generations that would come after, friend and foreigner alike.

Great pains are taken to protect freedom, to the point that freedom itself has become threatened by the many laws which are enacted in its name. My freedoms can't infringe on your freedoms. Therefore, tolerance has become the social buzzword. Unfortunately, tolerance has spread itself so thin that America stands in imminent danger of becoming completely immoral and out of control. Despite this, many are unaware that the fundamental principles of freedom originate in the government of heaven.

Freedoms' First Ring

Freedom was first put to the test back in heaven with an angel. Lucifer was a covering cherub who stood in the very presence of the Almighty. He was created beautiful, talented, and perfect. (See Ezekiel 28:12-19) Sadly, his blessed stature got the better of him until he came to believe he deserved more, and the seed of iniquity was born. "Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee." (Ezekiel 28:15; see also John 8:44) As his character changed, his name was changed from Lucifer, the light bearer, to Satan, the adversary.

Lucifer's rebellion in heaven was against the God of heaven. He challenged the very throne of God—His government—and claimed the right of worship. (See Isaiah 14:12-15) He took his contest first to his angelic counterparts and deceitfully persuaded a whole one-third of the population to believe in his lie. (Revelation 12:3-4) From there, the challenge against God found fuel in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve bowed their knees to the will of the adversary. (See Genesis 3) Their allegiance to Satan cost them their lives, and would have bound them forever like slaves to misery and death.



It is important to remember that evil and wickedness is not what God intended for us. The world He made, and everything in it, was pronounced "very good," even the first man and his wife. (Genesis 1:31) The life they were to experience was to be forever perfect, free from pain, death, and sorrow. (See Revelation 21:4) Yet, the crowning act of God's creation was in giving His created beings true freedom. Beautiful, perfect people are nothing more than robots without the heart and soul of a free spirit. What sets man above the beast of the field lies not only in the creativity and expressiveness of his mind, made in the image of his Maker, but more importantly in the freedom to worship from a free and loving heart. Make no mistake about it, the government of God is never about coercion or force, and anyone or anything, be that governments or religions, that operates under the principle of force is anti-Christ. And while physical freedom is a right we all cherish, freedom of the mind is the truest form of freedom. Everyone is free to choose to believe and obey God, or not. "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; ... but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." (Joshua 24:15)

With freedom of choice came the risk of choosing against God. This is what happened in heaven with Lucifer, this is what happened in the Garden of Eden. When Adam and Eve submitted to the lie of Satan, they chose to doubt their Creator and His pure love, despite the evidence otherwise. There could be only one result. Since God the Father is the author of life, there can be no life apart from Him. (Deuteronomy 30:19; John 1:4) If we choose God, we choose life. If we choose to deny God, we deny ourselves life. It's that simple. When Adam and Eve chose to accept Satan, they forfeited life and died. It is through them that sin and death have passed on all of us. "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all

have sinned.” (Romans 5:12) Unfortunately, being the chief anti-Christ that he is, Satan does not operate on the principle of freedom. Allegiance to him enslaves us in chains of sin until we have been consumed in his hate. So here we are, slaves to sin and death with no hope to free ourselves from our fate.

The Good News

The “good news” to all of us is that God did not leave us alone in this state of bondage. It was there in the Garden of Eden that the plan was announced. The plan of salvation would redeem man back to God in the event of sin. (See Genesis 3:15) God the Father and His own begotten Son were the authors of this wonderful plan. Between the two of Them the counsel of peace was born. “And the counsel of peace shall be between them both.” (Zechariah 6:13)

Many have asked why God didn’t just destroy Lucifer when he first rebelled, saving the world from the temptation and the resulting fall from grace. However, what would you think if you were one of the angels and God destroyed your “sergeant” simply for challenging His authority? A measure of doubt would forever linger in your mind and shadow your ability to freely love and worship God from a pure heart. That doubt could eventually even result in your own challenge against His throne.

Others have suggested that since God knows the end from the beginning He could have simply never created Lucifer (or any others who would do the same), and thus avoided the situation all together. While all creation would have never known the difference and would have existed in blissful ignorance, God Himself would know. Again, true freedom originated in the government of heaven. The character of God is such that He could never summon the worship of His creatures knowing they were not worshipping Him from a truly free heart. God is not looking for mechanical adorations, empty hearts just going through the motions. The awesome love and character

of God rightfully deserves the highest recognition of honor from all His creatures, great and small.

It is through the plan of salvation that God is continually working to win us back. There is no need for force, for by revealing to us the true nature of His character—His deep and tender love, His mercy and forgiveness for our mistakes, and the blessings and richness of life in Him—our hearts may respond in love and gratitude, endearing us eternally to Him. However, it’s not just a matter of changing our minds. Payment for sin still had to be made. Since the wages of sin is death, that complete and eternal separation from God, then the price of death had to be paid. “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Romans 6:23) Yes, we could be freed from sin, but it would come at the highest cost. Remember, it is by blood that freedom is bought, it is by blood that freedom endures. The generous soul of God’s very own Son fought the enemy of life against the odds and died for the right of liberty. Jesus Christ willingly spilled His blood on a cruel cross 2000 years ago, not only for those closest to Him, but also for the generations before and after, friend and foreigner alike. His one death bought freedom from sin once and for all. In one grand act, God not only proved beyond question the extent of His great love for us, but also paid the price of sin, substituting our life of sin with Christ’s perfect life of obedience: His life for my life, His death for my death. “In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.” (1 John 4:9) It was the ultimate act of liberty. “Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.” (Galatians 5:1)

“... A Time to Die”

The government of God is based upon freedom of choice. Yet, as in any earthly government, there are also laws, rules that act as guideposts to the way we should relate to God, others, and ourselves. Obeying the laws of the land ensures peace and safety. Breaking the law results in natural consequences, as running a red light will most likely result in a car accident. The laws of God are no different. Obeying God results in peace and safety. Disobeying God brings natural consequences as well. God the Father desires us to know peace and safety, and labors to convince us in that direction. We must always keep in mind, however, that while God is working to save us, Satan is working equally hard to destroy us. But have no fear, for “greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.” (1 John 4:4)

Though God provides for us physically, His ultimate concern is for our spiritual lives. Our physical lives while



on this earth are temporary opportunities to learn about God and decide for ourselves what we would believe about Him. Our spiritual lives will be for all eternity, if we choose Him. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." (James 1:17) With God the Father there is life, love, liberty, and every good thing. God is good. God is love. (Mark 10:18; 1 John 4:16) Without God there can be none of these. When Satan chose to reject God he rejected life, love, liberty, and every good thing. Being void of those things, he therefore is death, hate, slavery, and every evil thing. Satan is evil. Satan is hate.

Satan is still free to pursue his objective, which is to try to convince the universe that God is in the wrong. Ironically, one of Satan's greatest acts of deception is to



get others to believe that the God of heaven works by force. The terrorists of September 11 believed it. They in turn used force to destroy thousands of lives, all in the name of God. Yet, they were clearly inspired by the only god who rules by force, the god of this earth. However, there were thousands more lives spared that day than were lost. Each one has now been granted a clear opportunity to re-evaluate their life and change directions, if need be. For all the lives lost that day, none were forgotten. The King of Heaven knew each one intimately, both the innocent and the guilty. The innocent He has reserved for heaven, the guilty He has reserved for the day of judgment.

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die..." (Ecclesiastes 3:1-2) God knows beforehand when, where, and the length of our days on this earth. (Acts 17:24-27) Everything is calculated to bring the highest opportunity for salvation. As hard as it is to understand

these difficult situations, for those that love the Lord everything, good or bad, will work for the benefit of their salvation. God will take the wicked choices of others and use them to save a soul. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28)

Sin Will Not Rise Again

The wicked ways of Satan will only become more intense and destructive with time. (2 Timothy 3:13; 1 Peter 5:8) God must allow Satan to play out his hand fully in order for the universe to see the depth and breadth of sin. Only when evil has played its hand out, and every living creature understands the cost of rebellion, those who have chosen death will be granted their final decision for all eternity, and those who have chosen life will be rewarded with life eternal. (Revelation 22:12) Then sin will never rise up a second time because creation will never again question the wisdom and authority of the Most High God. "What do ye imagine against the LORD? he will make an utter end: affliction shall not rise up the second time." (Naham 1:9) Evil, and those who harbor it, will be forever blotted from the universe. In the wake of September 11, it may be that the world is beginning to see just how far evil can go.

As the world spins ever so closely to the end of time, the spirit of anti-Christ will gain increasing power. The day is not far off when globally we will see governments and religions together exercising the power of the anti-Christ, using coercion and force in the name of God. Those in loyal allegiance to the true God of heaven must consciously choose not to yield to this power. You see, slavery of the mind is voluntary: no one can control our thinking without our consent.

The question we should be asking ourselves now is, what are we doing with our freedom? Are we selling our freedom out to Satan in order to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season? (Hebrews 11:25) Or are we spending our freedom wisely by laying up treasure in heaven? (Matthew 6:19-21) Or will we delay our decision, until our indecision is forever sealed in silence? The choice is freely ours. "Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else. I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear." (Isaiah 45:22-23)



[Pat writes from Louisville, Kentucky, where she lives with her husband, Doug, and son Patrick.]

Decisions, Decisions... Don't Make Them Alone!

Dee Stringfellow

The decision to go to visit my son in California for Thanksgiving was a hard one this year. Not that I didn't want to go, but it would mean that I couldn't see my son and his family in Texas. We all tried so hard to find a way for all of us to be together, but time and the expense was too great. My decision to go to Greg's home in San Diego was made because I had never been able to spend a holiday with him and his family since he had married.

There are many choices that we must make in life every day. Each morning I ask the Lord to give me wisdom, and that my choices will be what He would have me do.

I prayed about my trip to California and asked the Lord if He would somehow work it out for something good to come out of it, other than just having a nice visit with my children and grandchildren.

When I had finally gotten my boarding pass and had taken a seat to wait for the flight call, a lady seated next to me smiled and asked, "Are you going to San Diego to visit family?" I replied, "Yes, my son and his family." "We are too," she responded.

About that time an elderly lady, walking slowly, came over near us and, before sitting down, commented, "Someone took my wheelchair, I guess." She started looking around and spied it over by the other gate. "There it is," she said. The first lady got up immediately to get it for her. When she brought the wheelchair back, she parked it right in front of both of us and as the elderly lady sat down in it she questioned, "Are you folks going to visit family in San Diego?" We answered her together, "Yes, we are." She smiled, gave a little chuckle and said, "I guess that's what we are all doing then."

They started the boarding procedure and of course the lady in the wheelchair was one of the first to board after the little children. They informed us that the flight was full and there were others on board who had come in with the plane from Cincinnati. As I entered the plane and started down the aisle, I noticed that all the aisle and window seats were taken. That plane was packed! About that time, I turned and the woman in the wheelchair spoke to me. "I've saved you a seat," she beamed. "You seemed like such a nice lady and I figured we could have a good visit while we are flying."

Of course it was a center seat, but that was such a nice gesture. Unfortunately, the young gentleman sitting on the aisle had to get up to let me in. Then, just as I sat down, I realized I hadn't taken my jacket off. Reluctantly, I turned to him and apologized, "I'm sorry, I forgot to put my jacket overhead."

"I suppose you want me to put it up for you," he stated with a not-too-pleasant look on his face. "No, I can do it, if you will let me out," I offered. Then he gave me a big smile and answered, "That's OK, I'll be glad to do it for you."

We got ready for takeoff, as usual. Soon I noticed the young man take a large paperback book out and start reading and marking it. I glanced over and noticed that it was a Bible. As he continued to mark and read, I asked him, "Are you a minister?" "No," he replied, "just a layman wanting to know more and understand the Bible better." His Bible was one designed for you to read so much each day and thereby finish it within a year. He said, "I've gotten behind and figured this was a good time for me to catch up."

I turned back to the lady on the other side of me and we introduced ourselves. Marie was a delightful person. She lived in a small house on her daughter's property, just outside of Chattanooga. When she told me where she lived, I was familiar with the area. She was going to visit her other daughter who was a schoolteacher.

We visited back and forth; the young man, Chris, even joined in our conversation. Several times I had an opportunity to share with him some verses that were very important to me and give him a chance to think about them. Of course, Marie joined in too.

Then, at one point Marie got a puzzled look on her face and commented, "It sounds like we are slowing down." I noticed it too and noted that "we still have an hour before we get to San Diego." Just then the pilot's voice came over the PA system, telling us that we were landing in Phoenix as the fog was too heavy in San Diego. He also informed us that a couple of flights had tried to get in there and had to turn back. We were told that the airlines would be putting us up for the night and that there would be airline personnel waiting when we got off to help us reschedule our flights for the morning and give us directions for getting to the hotel. I decided to ask Marie if she would like to share a room with me. She was delighted! I suggested that I would get off before she did, because they would need to get her a wheelchair, and that I would get in line for our rescheduling. This arrangement worked out nicely and soon we were settled in our hotel room.

What a lovely lady she is. We got to know each other very well before making our way on into San Diego the next day. Of course we exchanged phone numbers and addresses. I had made a new friend.

(Continued on page 4)

SPOTLIGHT ON ORPHANS

Esther McDaniel

Kenya:

We are thrilled with the response we have received for the children at OBREC Orphanage in Kenya, both through the small mailing list of our newsletter and through the speaking engagements Brother Lawrence was able to fill while he was here in the United States. Thank you, and may God bless you for your outpouring of love and kindness to these children. To date, 20 of the 126 orphans have been sponsored, the water line is in place so they now have pure water to drink, the water holding tank has been funded and purchase is in progress. The tank is needed because there are times when the city water is not available to come through the pipe.

The school, King's Kids Academy, which was nearly closed down on November 5 due to the condition of the buildings, has been given an extension because they have been able to do some needed renovations to their simple corrugated tin structures. (Photos were taken before renova-

While Brother Lawrence was here, one teacher, who also served as chaplain, was in a terrible auto accident. Their buses are like our large vans, but they squeeze in 20 people. The bus this teacher was riding rolled. Seven people were killed and the children's teacher was seriously injured. In Kenya, they keep you in the hospital until the bill is paid and it just continues going up. We are thankful that he has improved and the hospital bill has been covered.

Another teacher's wife was in a coma from malaria. We are thankful to have been able to get him some much-needed funds. The children are eating on a regular basis. A crippled boy, who was hoping for a wheelchair so he didn't have to continue going around on his knees, has been spon-



tion.) The classrooms and the headmaster's office have been renovated, both the tin walls and the floor; the needed ventilation has been put in place and the buildings painted. The teachers, who have been working without pay, have finally received *something*.

sored and much better has happened! Money has been sent for him to have surgery to help him walk. We will need to keep you updated on his prognosis.

We asked some friends from Uganda to visit the orphanage. They

have sent us the following report:

"All in all we left for Kenya on 11th Nov. 2001 as arranged. Safety was accorded to us by our Heavenly Father. We reached Homa Bay when the sun was setting. The King's Kids welcomed us, as indicated in your letter, wearing red tee-shirts [with a pic-

ture of a crown on them and saying, "King's Kids Academy - Ed.]. We walked to Ebenezer Truth Mission premises where all the preparation had been made. We were welcomed in a big way.

"The school is semi-permanent with iron sheets both on top and sides; not bricks or blocks. There are six classrooms, but no proper dwelling place for the children. The dormitory is really not enough—it is too congested. There are around eight or nine teachers. The children were happy, but more improvement is needed in the following: health or hygiene, bedding (no mattresses or beds, only they sleep on rags) the youngest ones are even developing a skin rash.

"The water tap was in the compound but it was not functioning. Even electricity was not available, but I saw the wiring was there. We met three children of Brother Lawrence; two boys and a girl. The children eat posho [a cornmeal mash - Ed.] and beans. There was not enough food, clothes or shoes."

*Alfred Mukhooli and
Kenneth Israel of Uganda*

Now I would like to tell you about two of the girls: 14-year-old Julia and 16-year-old Nereah, who need sponsors. Please note that the girls' heads are shaved to ward off the possibility of having a problem with lice. Also note that Nereah is wearing the girls' school uniform. Each school in Kenya has its own uniform and this is the uniform they have chosen for King's Kids Academy. It is blue with a white collar and cuffs.

Julia's father died when she was six years old. Her mother tried very hard to take care of her but, as a woman, she was defeated. After that she went to town to find out how she could manage to get food to feed her

daughter but due to lack of money she was defeated in this also. After a few years, this mother became sick and died, leaving “Jully” alone. Jully suffered greatly for lack of food and a good place to sleep, as it was always raining. Finally she decided to go to the orphanage to seek food, shelter and education.

Nereah lived with her parents in a ramshackle structure in the name of a house. Her parents were poor and were always fighting over small issues. Her father decided that enough was enough and said he was going to marry another woman. Upon hearing of this, her mother committed suicide. Nereah then remained with her father and stepmother, who hated her and her siblings. They would go without food and, each time they told their father, they were beaten for being rude and because they did not like the woman. Later, Nereah’s father died of AIDS and Nereah had no option but to resort to the streets. That was where she was found and brought to the OBREC Orphanage where she found hope, education and most of all, motherly love.

Space does not permit me to go into further detail, but soon I hope we can tell the story of what has compelled Brother Lawrence and his family to do this great work and why these children stay there when the conditions are so poor. Perhaps next time we can give more of the picture.

Be sure to read the news article on the following pages that we discovered on the Internet. This Canadian reporter was doing a write-up on the AIDS epidemic in Africa when he came across Brother Lawrence and his orphanage. Though Lawrence had written to him after the interview, he never heard anything back and did not know



Julia

Romania:

Since the money for the Day Break Orphanage in Romania is going directly to Cordella Brummett, I called her to get a report. She was very pleased with the response they received, also, from her story in the last issue of *Hearth to Hearth*. She was able to visit the orphanage in November, taking with her the funds they had received from the sale of the handcrafted items they had sold. Whenever one of the family goes to visit, they take only the barest necessities along with them so that they have plenty of room, upon their return, to carry these items back home with them. I hope that soon they will have some photos for us to print so you can see some of these very reasonably priced, lovely items.

Cordella is working on the story of Ioana’s life and the events that led her to start Day Break, which we hope to publish in our next issue. In the meantime, she has asked us to thank you very much for your help, and to publish this very special prayer request, written by her sister, Etha.

Prayer Request:

I would like all of you to pray for Minodora. I first met Minodora last year at the orphanage in Romania. While I was there I learned to love her very much. She came to the orphanage when she was two months old. She did not have a first name when she came, so Ioana gave her the name Minodora. When Minodora was nine months old

my sister took her to live with her and her husband. She was hoping to adopt her along with a little boy.

In October Minodora’s mother and great-grandfather found out that an American was trying to adopt her and they decided that they wanted her back. My sister, Stella, and her husband were called to come to a meeting of the Child Protection Agency and Minodora’s mother. They had no idea what was going on. When they got there Stella was not able to understand everything that was said, and so it was a big surprise to her to learn that they were taking Minodora away from her. Stella was not even allowed to hug her baby before she was taken away. Stella has not seen Minodora since this happened, but she has heard from people that live in the village where Minodora is that Minodora is always sick, and cries all the time. I am very afraid that she will die.

The lady at the mayor’s office of the village where Minodora is said that she talked to the great-grandfather and asked him why they would want to take the baby away from such a good family, and he told her that he had heard that people would give him money and other things to get the child back. This is why he took her, because he was hoping to get gifts from my sister and her husband. Please pray that Minodora will be safe, and that we can have her back soon. Thank you.

Etha Brummett

As we reach out to these orphaned children, let us remember that we serve a God who is able to multiply our “loaves and fishes” that we may do more than we ever thought possible, when we do it to bless others, to His glory. It is thrilling to watch God at work! If you have not experienced it, why not put Him to the test. He has a real blessing in store for you.



Nereah

AIDS IN AFRICA

Reporter Martin Seemungal

Segment 1:



It is a picture of slow and agonizing death. A picture of a continent

wasting away. Africa is being ravaged by AIDS like nowhere else. According to the latest figures from the United Nations, 23.3 million Africans have HIV or AIDS. That's nearly 70 per cent of all HIV and AIDS cases in the world. About eight of every 10 people who die of AIDS are African. Those numbers tell a catastrophic story. But it's a story most Africans don't want to hear. And that is at the heart of the problem.

Emily Ocheno is only 16 years old. She is dying. She fights to hold on to what little life is left in her frail body. But in a hospital ward in Homa Bay, Kenya, the killer has no name. Emily has AIDS.



Reverend Simon Onyanga has watched AIDS decimate his congregation. But he is also shocked at the level of denial. Despite the horrific toll, people refuse to admit that AIDS exists.

"If you are to ask her she will talk about taboo, she will give you cultural reasons. She will talk about an opportunistic disease and tell you that is what she's suffering from. She will not tell you she is perishing because of HIV," says Rev. Onyanga.

Even the hospital won't officially admit there are AIDS patients. These are called TB wards. But unofficially doctors will say that virtually everyone here is HIV positive. Many have already developed full-blown AIDS.

"Have you been tested?" Martin Seemungal asks a patient.

"I have not yet," he replies.

"Do you think maybe you have HIV?" Seemungal asks.

"I don't have, I don't have. I am sure," the man says.

AIDS swept into Kenya years ago. But as with many African countries, there's a stigma attached to it. Governments don't want to talk about it let alone deal with it. In fact it was only late last year, just a few months ago, that Kenya's president finally went public and declared AIDS a national disaster. But Dr. Fredric Omayo says the damage has already been done. Because the government refused to admit there was a problem, precious years have been lost.



"This has caused the problem to get out of proportion. And the infection now has gone all over like bush fire," Omayo says.

Across Kenya the infection rate is 15 per cent. But in some places, like Homa Bay, it's estimated that 70 per cent of adults have HIV. Homa Bay is a fishing town on the shores of Lake Victoria. When the fishermen come in with a catch, there are scores of women there to meet them, looking to get fish in exchange for sex. The women then sell the fish.



"They do sex because they need money. They need money," one woman says.

"And is there a lot of women coming doing that?" Seemungal says.

"Yes, most of them," she replies.

"So if every fishermen is going to do that and every women is also going

to have boyfriends who are fishermen, the spread goes," says Rev. Onyanga.



This combination of cultural traditions and denial is threatening the entire continent. The death rate in this town alone has doubled in the past year. And while it has been the centre of a thriving fishing industry, AIDS is killing the people who steer the boats. Soon people fear there will be nobody left. Victims of the same killer without a name that is slowly but surely killing Emily. Doctors have done all they can. Only her God can help her now.

Segment 2:

First AIDS took their parents, then it took their childhood. Young Africans who have been cast out on their own by an epidemic. Everyday their numbers grow. The United Nations says AIDS has turned more than 11 million children worldwide into orphans. Ninety-five percent of those are in Africa. The U.N. says the stigma of AIDS leaves them more vulnerable than children orphaned by other causes, putting them at higher risk of malnutrition, sickness, abuse and sexual exploitation.



They're all orphans and they have something else in common. Their parents died of AIDS. Some were too young to remember how it happened.

Dan Okayu will never forget how it was like to watch his mother die. He says it was a slow, painful death.

"I was feeling really bad. I was crying every day for God to help my mother," Okayu says.



The AIDS epidemic which is sweeping across the African continent is leaving millions of desperately poor orphans in its deadly wake. In Homa Bay, a poor, dusty town of 750,000 people in western Kenya, there are an estimated 35,000 orphans. These streets become home and they do anything they can to survive. They beg, they steal, some even turn to prostitution. They simply exist from day to day with no hope for any kind of productive future.

Laurence Kojerwan [sic] patrols the street of Homa Bay looking for orphans to take back to his orphanage. "Here is a boy. If you give him a future, if you give him hope, if you give him education, he can be just as good as any other child born in the west," Kojerwan says. The purpose of his orphanage is to salvage a generation left to fend for



itself. They are the AIDS victims who didn't die.

"If something isn't done, it becomes a disaster and it means the whole society, the whole generation will be wiped out!" Kojerwan says.

But he is trying to do it with very few resources. There is almost no support from the government.

In the hospital across town, doctors battle to save the lives of more mothers and fathers infected with HIV. Like many hospitals in Africa, there is a shortage of drugs. And even if the drugs were available, few people here could afford them.

"It is completely shocking," says Dr. Arno Jeannin of Doctors Without Borders.

"There is an inequality in the access to care for people from where I was trained in France and people here. The difference is enormous."



So for people with HIV, the chances of survival are low. But Kenya is waking up to the scale of this disaster and is trying to educate the people about the danger of this disease which is killing so many people and leaving so many orphans behind.

"AIDS is now real. And people should refrain. In fact of late we have asked people to use condoms. If they have to do sex," one AIDS worker says.

This heightened awareness is certain to save lives in coming years. But so many people in this town have HIV. It is well over 50 per cent. The number of orphans is expected to double by the end of the year.



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