

Hearth to Hearth

Woman to Woman



Vol. 6, No. 1

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

Jan./Feb. 2003

Encounters With Jesus

MODERN-DAY NINA

Onycha Holt



The thing that means the most to Nina is being close to God. True, she has a fine relationship with family and friends, and there are numerous hobbies and interests to enjoy. There are children and grandchildren to care for,

neighbors to visit, volunteer work to be done at the school, church programs to attend, as well as office work to complete. There never seems to be enough money or time, so housework limps along and cooking gets simpler and simpler. In all this hustle and bustle, Nina has to fight to find time for herself, and when she does, she loves to spend it with God. Over the years God has become nearer and dearer to her. Nothing, she will emphatically tell you, is as satisfying, interesting, fulfilling, or energizing as communion with God.

It fills her with wonder every time she thinks about His awesome power and the seemingly limitless universe He upholds, or about His unsurpassed creativity and beauty, His deep wisdom and knowledge, His boundless energy, His perfect judgments, and His sublime plan to secure His universe forever from the selfish heart of man and fallen angels.

His throne is high and lifted up. (Isaiah 6:1) Ten thousand thousands minister unto Him, and constant activity surrounds Him. (Revelation 5:11) He exists in light unapproachable. (1 Timothy 6:16) It only takes His word to bring nonexistent matter into existence (Genesis 1), and His whisper could send our planet hurling into the deep recesses of space, millions of galaxies away. His eye can reach to the end of the future

and at the same time He knows everything that has ever happened in the long eons of the past. (Exodus 3:14) The beauty, and the glory, and the majesty of His kingdom are beyond her imagination.

In spite of all this, the deepest desire of her heart is to be near God, to watch as He accomplishes His multitude of tasks, to hear His voice as He speaks worlds into existence, to be near His mind as He plans and makes decisions, to see His joy over a new creation, and to feel His concern over the smallest detail in His kingdom. She desires this because she loves Him exquisitely, and so wants to be near Him.

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Editorial

GALILEI, BRUNO AND ME

Onycha Holt

During this New Year may you find health and happiness, and a closer relationship with our magnificent God. Two people have been on my mind lately, and I would like to share their stories with you.

Galileo Galilei (1564-1642) is well known to most of us for his important scientific and astronomical discoveries. You may recall the legend of him leaning far out of a high window in the Leaning Tower of Pisa and dropping two spheres of differing mass, to show the crowd below that they would both land at the same time. Or perhaps you know that, in his job as lantern-watcher at the Leaning Tower of Pisa, he discovered the principle of the pendulum as he watched the lamp swing back and forth in the currents of air. But did you know Galileo was brought before the Inquisition because of his views of the universe, which were in direct opposition to those of ecclesiastical authority? Galileo made a telescope, and through it, he spotted countless stars in the Milky Way. He saw the phases of the planet Venus and the satellites orbiting Jupiter. He discovered craters, mountains, and flat areas on the moon, and spots on the sun. The earth was not the center of the universe, as the church taught, unmovable, with all else revolving around it. In 1633, on his knees, he recanted his views, but, allegedly as he rose, he muttered, "And yet it (Earth) moves."

Giordano Bruno (1548-1600) is less known to us today, although he was a contemporary of Galileo. He became a monk, but later renounced his Dominican vows and fled Italy to avoid prosecution by the Inquisition. He defended the concept that the earth revolves around the sun, although he had misunderstandings about other aspects of astronomy. He was contentious, frank and outspoken on many issues, including his view that Christianity was irrational, and often had violent quarrels over seemingly trivial matters. In 1591 he was invited back to Italy to be a tutor to a prospective patron who shortly thereafter denounced him to the Inquisition, and he was brought to trial. Between 1593 and 1600 he lay in a papal prison, was interrogated several times by the Holy Office and convicted by the chief theologians. By and by, he promised to recant, but then changed his mind. He was convicted of heresy by the Inquisition and executed by burning at the stake in the Piazza Campo di Fiore in Rome in 1600.

Some condemn Galileo's decision, but perhaps it didn't have eternal consequences for him. We cannot be sure if Bruno was convicted of heresy because of his scientific beliefs or due to his religious ones, as the records of his trial are lost, or at least have never surfaced from the papal archives. What is important is that you and I will very likely have to face the same oppressive power. If we refuse to worship the beast and his image and receive his mark, we will not be able to buy or sell, and we will face a death sentence. (Revelation 13:15-17) The good news is that God will not forsake us during that critical time. We must now, however, be fortifying our minds daily with His Word and forming a character like His, so that He can place His seal upon us. What a wonderful haven that seal will be!

Galilei found scientific truth but he refused to uphold it before the inquisitors. Bruno, on the other hand, refused to recant what he believed to be true, although we might question the veracity of some of those beliefs and perhaps his attitude. It will be my hope and prayer during the coming year, that each of us will know for a certainty, under the guidance of God's Spirit and His Word, what truth is, and that it will be so deeply ingrained in our hearts and minds, that we will always stand on the side of God, regardless of the pressure exerted by others.

In this issue, we are beginning a six-part series by David Clayton on "The Heart of God," that is designed to help us draw closer to Him. You may need to read it more than once. Also, let's renew our commitment to practice the Christian graces of forgiveness and thankfulness, and to be a helping hand to the young mothers in our midst.



MAIL CALL:

I would like to sponsor one of the children. I seem to relate to pre-teen and teen females the best, however, I simply want to help a child, so if another needs more help whatever the age or sex is OK by me.

The Bible says to help widows and orphans so I look for these to help. *New Jersey*

Thank you for the *Hearth to Hearth* magazines you sent me and thank you for sending the prior ones to the devastating one. [See *HTH*, Sept./Oct. 2002] It was a shock for me, even though I was just reading six magazines, one after the other.

I can imagine how you felt and also all your readers who had supported the orphans, especially a particular orphan who did not exist. It certainly was a heart-breaking experience. I hope everyone pulls out of it okay.

God bless you as you continue on in the Master's service. *Australia*

I appreciate *Hearth to Hearth*. I especially enjoyed the most recent "A Page from My Experience" [*HTH* Nov/Dec 2002]. I don't have it before me right now since I sent it home with [my friend] yesterday so he could read about "The Women of Asia."

Montana

Would you please remove me from your *Hearth to Hearth* mailing—I hardly have time for anything other than my personal devotions.

Michigan

Your newsletter is such a blessing—thank you. I really enjoyed the article by Sally Specht. See "A Page from my Experience" Nov./Dec. 2002] Sally's in-laws were friends with my parents in Colorado-California. I also have many memories and blessings to be thankful for. My parents were such an inspiration to me; because of their love, it is easier for me to understand God's love.

Texas

God is good all the time! And we are living in marvelous times as we see the end draw nearer. Received the letter about the orphans. I have not sent in regular offerings for orphan support as I did not know what all was happening. Here is a check to help at

this time. I will send more later. Thank you for your hard work in keeping up with all that is going on. *Ohio*

Enclosed is \$___ to sponsor a child. I will send as much as I can because my heart goes out to Maurice, his wife and all the kids. Mercy, peace and love to all at *Hearth to Hearth*. *New Jersey*

We pray Pastor Anyango is an honest man. [We] feel we must believe he is instead of not even trying to help the orphans. May the Lord continue to bless your ministry. *Minnesota*

I enjoy *Hearth* and your articles are always of special interest. *North Carolina*

You must be very busy with all your work on *Hearth to Hearth*. You are doing a good job. *Montana*

What is this orphanage all about and what part of it are you involved in besides the money to support it. I always thought that when I retire I would like to go and work in an orphanage. I think that would be a good way to spend my last days. Just a thought anyway. That was a good report, thanks. *Michigan*

Please use the extra money where needed. You have my support. *Oho*

I'm sorry I wrote that letter before I had read your last issue of *Hearth to Hearth* which did answer my questions concerning the orphanage.

I do want to help in some small way whether with Pastor Maurice in Kenya or wherever you feel the greatest need. Please do accept my gift enclosed. Also, let me know what is involved in sponsoring a child.

It is so heart warming to hear what you are doing in the name of the Lord. I know He will continue to bless your efforts. My prayers are with you all. *Pennsylvania*

Could you please send me the *Hearth to Hearth* newsletter. I would really appreciate this. I am looking very forward to reading this newsletter. *Canada*

Perhaps the new year will bring beautiful changes to the children in Kenya. I'm so grateful that we've been able to work together and hopefully

make a difference in some children's lives. *Wisconsin*

PRAYER CALL:

2) Remember Beverly of Jamaica in your prayers. Her condition is serious and deteriorating rapidly. Remember, also, her family. She is a precious sister in Christ.

2) Please remember Maria, whose health is also deteriorating.

3) Remember our pregnant daughter-in-law whose labor was triggered two months early due to complications from the flu virus.

EDITOR'S NOTES:

» **Moving?** If you have changed your address, please kindly notify us to avoid missing any issues, as well as to help us save on expenses. Postage for returned newsletters is very expensive at \$1.41 each. Thank you for your help.

» **Children say** the cutest things, and sometimes the wisest! Send us your, or another, child's "wit and wisdom" for a future Wee Wit & Wisdom" mini-story!

» **After you have read** and digested the articles in this issue, please take a few minutes and write us your comments, either pro or con, regarding what has impressed you. Has a particular article, or a particular idea touched you, or even hit a sore spot? Tell us! We look forward to hearing from you.

» **Our heartfelt thanks** for your continued encouragement and support. Your prayers are especially coveted and greatly appreciated.

Wee Wit & Wisdom

My daughter Casey and her grandmother were having a heart to heart talk about spiritual things. Grandma was trying to explain to her five-year-old granddaughter about what sin is and how important it is to be sure all sin is removed from one's life.

The child sat quietly listening for a time then stated knowingly, "Grandma, I don't have any sin in my life."

"Oh, really?" said Grandma, "How do you know?"

Casey just smiled as she replied, "I coughed it up!"

Becky Miller

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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Fearfully and Wonderfully Made (Part 4)

George McDaniel

In 2 Kings chapter 5, an incident is recorded that has an important lesson for us, relating to every aspect of our lives. We see detailed here the experience of Naaman, who was a very important Syrian leader. He was actually the general in command of the Syrian army. Naaman was a valiant man, but he had leprosy. This was equivalent to a sentence of death, because no cure was known; quite similar to many kinds of cancer today. He learned from an Israelite slave girl that there was a prophet in Israel who could cure him. The king of Syria sent him to the king of Israel with a valuable reward and a letter that said, "I have sent Naaman my servant to you, that you may recover him of his leprosy." (2 Kings 5:6)

The king of Israel was very distressed at hearing this. He tore his clothes, which was a sign at that time of great grief, and said: "Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man sends unto me to recover a man of his leprosy? Wherefore consider, I pray you, and see how he seeks a quarrel against me." (2 Kings 5:7)

The king of Israel may not have been wrong in his evaluation of this situation. Healing someone of leprosy was not thought possible. The king of Syria could have been either seeking a fight with the king of Israel, or else playing a huge practical joke at his expense. I don't believe the king of Syria really thought there was any possibility of Naaman being cured.

When Elisha, the prophet, heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent word to the king to send Naaman to him "and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel." (2 Kings 5:8)

So Naaman came with all his retinue and stood at the door of Elisha's house. Elisha didn't even come out to see the great man. He sent a message by his servant, telling him to go wash in the Jordan River seven times and he would be healed. This made Naaman very angry. He went away and said, "Behold, I thought he would surely come out to me and call on the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place, and recover the leper. (v. 11, margin) Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? May I not wash in them and be clean? So he turned and went away in a rage." (2 Kings 5:11, 12)

It appears, from these words of Naaman, that there must have been "faith healers" in Syria much as there are today and using the same techniques. He may even have gone to one, without success. Many today are seeking shortcuts to physical healing that don't involve obedience to God's commands.

His servants reasoned with him with these words, "If the prophet had bid you do some great thing, wouldn't you have done it? How much rather then, when he says to you, wash, and be clean?" (2 Kings 5:13)

Naaman appears to be a man who could be reasoned with. He calmed down, saw the logic of his servants, and went to the Jordan and dipped under seven times, and it is recorded that his flesh came again as the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

Read the account in 2 Kings 5. Learn what happened to Gehazi, Elisha's servant, when he yielded to the temptation to obtain riches to which he had no right.

As we review this story, certain things stand out. Naaman did not have much faith that he could be healed. He was desperate and grasping at any straw he could find that offered the slightest hope. The king of Israel, probably Joram, son of Ahab, didn't have any faith in God to heal. He

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didn't even suggest that Naaman go to Elisha; Elisha had to send a message. The one with the strong faith was the little slave girl. God honored her faith by healing Naaman. However, Naaman had to respond by obeying the command from God through Elisha. His obedience shows he did have some faith.

This story also shows how much influence one person with strong, unshakable faith, can have. Think about this young girl, taken away from home and family, made to serve foreigners who hated her race and her God, and yet she was concerned about the one who was her master and wanted to share something about the true God with him. There also must have been something very positive about her character that showed in her day-to-day life or her words would not have been believed, but rather ridiculed. That's something to think about and meditate on.

Do we want good health, physically and spiritually? Then we have to learn God's commands (or laws or desires) in this regard and obey.

The acronym NEW START, helps us to remember eight basic principles for good health. These letters stand for Nutrition, Exercise, Water, Sunlight, Temperance, Air, Rest, and Trust in God. None of these works independently of the others. They all work together to produce the desired effect of good health. The one named last is the most important one of all. Anyone who practices the first seven will have improved health of the body, but even more essential is a connection with the Eternal One and the development of

(Continued bottom of next page.)

A Page from My Experience

Barbara "Barbie" Ann Dunklow

February 2, 1957-November 1, 2002*

Vicki Kritzell

I went to see Barbie on October 31, 2002. I was going to tell her I had written a tribute to her because I thought it would make her smile. [See "A Patchwork of Blessings," *Hearth to Hearth* Nov./Dec. 2002] When I arrived and inquired as to how she was doing, the nurses informed me they did not think she would make it through the night. Although I had always known I would come someday and she would be gone, I had not quite acknowledged that, with each trip, it might be our last visit. They told me her family was with her, so I decided not to intrude. After all, I did not know them, and this was a very private time.

I stayed for several hours, and finally decided I must risk intruding. As I walked toward her room, I fought to hold back the tears. Knocking lightly on her door, I heard the invitation to enter, pronounced by her son-in-law. In the dimly lit room, my heart knotted at what I saw. Her son-in-law sat quietly by, not knowing what to say or do, simply staring at his hands. The daughter I had been so critical of lay in her bed, cradling her in her arms, cheek pressed against cheek, her arms wrapped around her. I heard Barbie's desperate attempts to breathe. I leaned over, embracing both mother and daughter, and kissed her goodbye. Her skin was cold and her eyes were blank. In my heart, I realized she was unaware of my presence, but I was aware of hers. The pain I felt was not for her, but for her daughter, who in watching her die, was looking at herself and her own daughter in years to come. Her precious Crystal is carrying the same genetic material as she, creating a road map for her future with no detour.

(Continued from previous page.)

spiritual health. Good physical health is a great help in developing spiritual health. Everything is interrelated. As we continue with this series, and take up these eight rules for good health one by one, I am going to try to show how they all work together. I am going to try to present general principles that can be applied to specific conditions without getting too much involved in specific details, except by way of illustration.

One final thought: There is a function of the human spirit that, as far as I know, is not possessed by lower animals, which can help us in our search for truth. That is the will. We

Barbie died with only two people at her bedside, but the hearts of many were with her. I left that night knowing she would be gone before sun-up. When I drove in the next day, November 1, the first snow had fallen on the shores of Traverse Bay. In contrast, hues of red, gold, and yellow still clung to the trees. As I walked through the door, I heard the Activities Director announce over the P.A. system, "This song is dedicated to a very special lady who touched the lives of everyone she knew. Goodbye Barbie, we will all miss you." The song played, and every nurse and aide who had tended Barbie over the years was fighting to keep back the tears. I was not so successful.

I have learned much from Barbie. Do not sweat the small stuff. Count your blessings. Take pleasure in the little things. Love your children, even if they do not meet your expectations. Spread sunshine to those around you. I only hope I can remember these lessons learned from her in those precious moments we spent together. I plan to see her again, and we will turn our faces to the sun, hand in hand, and marvel at the wonder of being.



*Only in reading Barbie's obituary did I realize she was only 45 years old. Her brother, who is being cared for by her father, is also suffering from Huntington's-chorea.

[Since her retirement, Vicki's visits to see her father in the nursing home have become a blessing to her life. Spending hours a day there on frequent trips, many of the residents have become not just patients but friends, each with a rich history to share. The special memories of these new-found friends are brought home and treasured by her.]

have to decide that when we find truth in any area, if we are sure that it is God's desire for us, we will obey. Even if no one else around us sees it as we see it, and even if they oppose and ridicule us, we have to decide in advance that we will follow where God leads. The power of the human will, when yielded to the will of God, is limitless. We just need to put it to the test and see what God can accomplish in and through us to His glory.



[George is a retired registered nurse who enjoys doing research into how the body functions and how to keep it in optimum health. He makes his home in West Virginia.]

The of God

Part 1 God's Great Desire

David Clayton

Some events have recently happened to me that have had a negative effect on me. The first thing that happened was, I read an article entitled, "The Agenda of Islam." It brought home to me the fact that there are millions and millions of people in the world who do not know Christ, and millions of these people have an agenda that the knowledge of Christ, as the Son of God, should be obliterated from the world. This movement, and these people, are growing stronger and stronger.

Then I received word from a former believer in Australia that she had "converted" to Islam and was now rejoicing that she had finally found her god!

Also, I visited Dr. Loraine Day's website and discovered that she has embraced some very strange ideas. One of the things that she has come to believe is that everybody will eventually be saved, good and wicked alike, and she goes into the Greek language to attempt to demonstrate that when it says at the end of time the wicked will be destroyed, it means reborn. They will be reborn.

When God healed Dr. Day of her cancer, [see "Fearfully and Wonderfully Made," *Hearth to Hearth*, Nov./Dec. 2002] I was so impressed at how God was working in her life. Yet, when I see something like this happen, I am challenged. And I believe if you think like me, you might be challenged too. The thought that came to me was, "I am so convinced that this sister was earnestly seeking God, and yet she ended up with some very strange ideas. How does one become so mixed up if they are earnestly seeking God?" Things like this challenge even my Christianity, because I keep saying to myself, "David, how do you know that you're in the right pathway? Do you believe you have an inside track to God, that you're closer to Him than other people? Others might go astray, but you are certain that He is guiding you?"

I was troubled and a little shaken, but sometimes it's good to be in that condition because, as a little child seeks his mother's bosom, I went to pray and share with God the concerns in my heart. In answer to my troubled heart, God showed me some things that have helped me a great deal and I want to share them with you.

In Malachi 1:11, we read a verse that expresses what I would call God's greatest desire, the hope of His heart, the expectation that God has. The first part of it says, "For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name shall be great among the Gentiles." This is God's expectation, His dream and His determination. The time will come when the entire planet will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of His name.

Habakkuk 2:14 says, "For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea," and Numbers 14:21 has a phrase that is meaningful. It says, "But as

truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD."

One billion of the world's population today belongs to the Muslim faith. Another billion are of the Roman Catholic faith. There are several million apostate protestants. The number of those who follow eastern religions, such as Hinduism, Buddhism, etc., runs into the billions! Genuine Christianity is a very small minority sprinkled throughout the various denominational and non-denominational groups. I am challenging you: As a child of God, how do you relate to that great goal of our Father's heart that the earth shall be filled with His glory?

Think about this: The purpose of the entire controversy is that the universe should be restored to affection and loyalty to God, and it can only be accomplished by a true appreciation of the true character of the Father.

Many times we reflect about the plan of salvation and we think: "Boy, I might be lost or I might be saved." But deeper than that, the great underlying issue in the universe, is that

God wants to be restored to a relationship of love with us.

**God wants
to be re-
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I think about in the beginning, when God had fellowship with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, and wonder what that fellowship was about. Did they sit on the grass together, did He put His arms around their shoulders, or did they just talk in a sort of formal way? Did they laugh?

We are human beings and we need to relate to things in a practical way. What kind of relationship did they have, really?

I enjoy sitting with my brethren discussing spiritual things. However, I don't think God's relationship with His children was one-sided. I don't think they discussed spiritual issues, like studying the Bible, all day. (Though, of course, they didn't have a Bible.) I think there was relaxation. There was fun. I suppose it was like with your children—you will hug them sometimes. I wonder if all of this was involved in the relationship God had with them at the beginning, and then it was lost. Satan cut it off and suspicion replaced love and trust. God's plan and desire was, and is, to fully restore that love and fellowship with His children. That is what He is after. I hope I can show it to you in such a way that it may move your heart. I don't want just your heads to be stirred, but your hearts also.



[This is part one of a six-part series. Pastor David Clayton may be contacted at Restoration Ministries, P. O. Box 23, Knockpatrick, Manchester, Jamaica, WI. His phone is 876-904-7392 and e-mail is david@restorationministry.com.]

From the Internet

"I Forgive You"

Author Unknown

A letter written to a man on death row by the Father of the man whom the man on death row had killed:

You are probably surprised that I, of all people, am writing a letter to you, but I ask you to read it in its entirety and consider its request seriously. As the Father of the man whom you took part in murdering, I have something very important to say to you.

I forgive you. With all my heart, I forgive you. I realize it may be hard for you to believe, but I really do. At your trial, when you confessed to your part in the events that cost my Son his life and asked for my forgiveness, I immediately granted you that forgiving love from my heart. I can only hope you believe me and will accept my forgiveness.

But this is not all I have to say to you. I want to make you an offer—I want you to become my adopted child. You see, my Son who died was my only child, and I now want to share my life with you and leave my riches to you. This may not make sense to you or anyone else, but I believe you are worth the offer. I have arranged matters so that if you will receive my offer of forgiveness, not only will you be pardoned for your crime, but you also will be set free from your imprisonment, and your sentence of death will be dismissed. At that point, you will become my adopted child and heir to all my riches.

I realize this is a risky offer for me to make to you—you might be tempted to reject my offer completely—but I make it to you without reservation.

Also, I realize it may seem foolish to make such an offer to one who cost my Son his life, but I now have a great love and an unchangeable forgiveness in my heart for you.

Finally, you may be concerned that once you accept my offer you may do something to cause you to be denied your rights as an heir to my wealth. Nothing could be further from the truth. If I can forgive you for your part in my Son's death, I can forgive you for anything. I know you never will be perfect on your own, but you do not have to be perfect to receive my offer. Besides, I believe that once you have accepted my offer and begin to experience the riches that will come to you from me, that your primary response will be gratitude and loyalty.

Some would call me foolish for my offer to you, but I wish for you to call me your Father.

Sincerely,

The Father of Jesus



A Prayer for the New Year

Grant me the strength from day to day
To bear what burdens come my way.
Grant me throughout this bright New Year
More to endure and less to fear.
Help me to live that I may be
From spite and petty malice free.

Let me not bitterly complain
When cherished hopes of mine prove vain,
Or spoil with deeds of hate and rage
Some fair tomorrow's spotless page.
Lord, as the days shall come and go
In courage let me stronger grow.

Let me with patience stand and wait,
A friend to all who find my gate,
Keep me from envy and from scorn;

As shines the sun with every morn
On great and low, so let me give
My love to all who round me live.

Lord, as the New Year dawns today
Help me to put my faults away.
Let me be big in little things;
Grant me the joy which friendship brings.
Keep me from selfishness and spite;
Let me be wise in what is right.

A happy New Year!
Grant that I May bring no tear to any eye.
When this New Year in time shall end
Let it be said I've played the friend,
Have lived and loved and labored here,
And made of it a happy year.

Edgar A. Guest

The Art of Saying, “Thank You”

Mrs. Vicky Hartel

The U.S. Postal System is considering dropping a day of delivery because of a severe decline in the amount of mail being sent. Much of this can be attributed to e-mail, but some can be blamed on the fact that we as a society do not take the time to write to one another anymore. The beautiful note cards embossed with violets, roses and other artistic endeavors are quickly becoming a thing of the past. In fact, as we no longer write letters, far too many of us are not even bothering with “thank you” notes for acts of kindness or generosity.

As Christians, we should be among the first to extend our gratitude for someone’s thoughtfulness. A simple “thank you” note is so appreciated by the recipient who may have gone to great lengths to bestow their kindness upon you. For example, a busy homemaker who spends the day in the kitchen preparing a special meal for company will be greatly blessed when her guests show their appreciation with a little note. I know

firsthand, for this has happened to me, and I always am touched by the writer’s conscientiousness in showing their thanks.

The Apostle Paul is a wonderful example to us as a writer of “thank-you” notes. In many of his letters to the different churches, he often expressed his thanks for their thoughtfulness or assistance. He sincerely thanks the Philippians in his letter when he says, “Notwithstanding ye have done well, that ye did communicate with my affliction. Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving but ye only. For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. Not because I desire a gift, but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.” Philippians 4:14-17

How encouraged the Philippians must have felt after receiving such thanks.

Paul praised the Romans in a “thank-you” note when he told them, “First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.” Romans 1:8. Paul knew how to write a “thank-you” note!

“Thank-you” cards and letters are not difficult to do. Simply keep a supply of cards or stationary handy. When someone prepares a meal for you, sends you a gift or encourages you with good advice, do not hesitate to send along your profound thanks. The Bible tells us over and over again to encourage one another, and “thank-you” notes are a wonderful way of doing so.

When was the last time a note was sped off to the pastor for a convicting sermon? How many gifts have been sent without a kind response? How many kind words have been offered without reply. Dear Sisters, let this not be said of us.

The old saying that “the pen is mightier than the sword” can apply here too. Considerate words of thanks will be a blessing to those to whom they are sent, and our Father in Heaven will see that we are filled with gratitude toward others.

And now I offer my own thanks to you for having taken the time to read this!



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All's Quiet on the Worship Front

Mary Collins

“Will my child ever stay quiet during the church service?” you ask. “Will I ever be able to sit through an entire church service without taking my child out?” Yes the child will, and yes you will.

As the mother of three boys, ages 8, 11 and 18, I am by no means an expert on how to help children behave during worship. But here are a few ideas that worked for me.

First, you and your family need to attend worship services regularly. This way, the child will know what to expect and good behavior habits will come more quickly.

Take the young child to cradle roll class (as soon as they can sit alone) or start one. Do not miss this excellent opportunity for your child to learn reverence and respect for God's Word. Good church behavior definitely begins here.

How can you help your child stay quiet during worship? Bring a bag of quiet things to keep the child occupied. This means small toys such as stuffed animals and quiet books. You can purchase quiet books at the bookstores and craft fairs. You can even make them yourself with buttons, snaps, pieces of felt, zippers, etc.

Whatever you have in your bag, make it something the child doesn't play with at home. That way the toy will seem new at church and will hold the child's interest longer. Older children enjoy Bible-story coloring books or small note pads to write numbers and ABCs.

Equally effective are ordinary quiet things that you may have with you such as gloves or mittens, purse-size photo albums, or your glasses case. These treasures can occupy a child for an entire service. Do not give your child your keys. They are dirty and noisy, and when you take them away the child will probably scream.

Do not let the child play with the hymnals. Every time the child grabs a song book, put it back in the rack and say, “No.” He will soon get the idea. Rather than let the child play with the ribbon in the songbook, bring your own 12" to 18" piece of ribbon or yarn. This can fascinate a child quietly throughout an entire service.

Sit your child in the seat next to you, facing the front, preferably with you sitting between siblings. Do not let the child stand up or face backwards. This distracts people in the rows behind you.

Keep children off the floor. The longer you let a child play on the floor, the more difficulty you will have getting him to sit quietly.



Use food as a distraction only sparingly. Cereal is easily spilled and crackers crumble. Providing snacks is not necessary if you are feeding your child at home. This child can wait until he gets home just as easily as you can.

If your child seems to be more playful or energetic after attending class, attend the early service if available. A schedule change may take extra effort on your part, but the rewards of a quiet time at worship are worth it.

Don't underestimate the power of a good example. Point out to your child slightly older children who are behaving (especially children that are known and liked by your child). Say, “Look at Tommy. See how quiet and nice he is. I want you to be like that today.”

During the Lord's Supper, do not let your child reach for the juice or bread. Say no and be firm. He will soon get the idea that this activity is for when he is older.

Give your child paper money, if at all possible, to drop in the basket. Paper is quieter and much easier for small hands to handle. Coins drop and roll, and the child will be upset if he can't find his money.

Take your child to the bathroom before coming to the auditorium. Usually he will ask to go to the bathroom, and you must deal with this need considering the age and development of the child. If the end of the service is near, try telling your child, “It's almost over; can you wait just a couple of minutes?” You may be surprised to find out that usually they can wait. Remember, do not let your child manipulate you in this. Trips to the bathroom quickly become a very disruptive habit to you and the entire congregation.

If you must take your child out of service because of bad behavior, let him know that you disapprove of his behavior. Do not go out to play. Whatever method of discipline you use, be firm and consistent. And remember to praise and reward the child who has been quiet and good in the worship service.



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FORGIVENESS

Dick Innis

When You Can't Forgive and Forget

"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." (Ephesians 4:32)

"I am having trouble forgiving someone," writes a Daily Encounter reader. "It was a horrible thing this person did to me, and they have not apologized but continue to act as if all is normal. I am filled with resentment and hatred. What this person did cannot be fixed. I want so bad to resolve my feelings but don't know what to do to get over what happened."

This person was being very honest about admitting their feelings, which is the first step in resolving any problem. But if we need an apology from the one who hurt us to be able to forgive them, we'd all be in a mess because this often doesn't happen.

To forgive (even when the offending person does apologize), we need to resolve our resentment and hatred (both of which are stored up hurt/anger). Once we resolve these feelings, the path is open for forgiveness and it becomes much easier. In fact, until we resolve these feelings, it is impossible to truly forgive as the resentment and hatred will keep popping up their ugly heads.

So how do we do this? We can write a letter to the one who has hurt us—and never, never send the first draft—and maybe never send any draft at all. (And if we do, we need to be sure to speak the truth in love.) In our writing we need to express the depths of our feelings of hurt and anger right from the gut. This is what David did in several of the Psalms. You may need to do this a number of times until all the feelings of hurt and anger have dissipated. As long as these feelings are bottled up, the person who has hurt us is in control of our emotions and response towards them.

Next, we can go alone in our car to a private place and park where we will be safe. Wind up the windows (turn the car radio on if it helps) and pretend the person we are mad at is with us and say to them everything we would really like to tell them, expressing all our hurt and angry feelings. Do this say for a half hour or more as needed. Then go back and do this a number of times, spending less and less time each time we go, until all our negative feelings are gone.

The Bible says not to let the sun go down while we are feeling angry. This is because unresolved anger is an emotional poison, so we need to resolve it as quickly as possible. However, if we still can't resolve our anger, we need to see a good therapist or counselor who can help us work through and resolve our anger. If we can't resolve it alone,

we can't afford not to go to a therapist. If we don't, our future medical bills will be much higher.

Finally, we need to express our feelings to God. He knows how we feel anyhow (and loves us regardless), and ask Him to help us to resolve them and to be able to forgive the one who has hurt us.

Remember, unresolved anger is like an emotional cancer and either we get the "cancer" or the "cancer" gets us. And, as another has said, "Failing to forgive is like taking poison and waiting for the other person to die."

Forgiveness: The Power to Heal

"Then Peter came to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, 'I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.'" (Matthew 18:21-22)

Some years ago during a visit to Yellowstone Park, one writer observed that the only animal that the grizzly bear would share his food

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with was a skunk. It wasn't that the grizzly wanted to share his food but rather that he chose to. With one swing of his powerful paw he could have crushed the skunk.

So why did he allow the skunk to eat with him? Because he knew the high cost to getting even.

Clever bear! Undoubtedly he had learned the hard

way. Strange that we humans often aren't as smart. Sometimes we carry grudges for years, often repressing them from conscious memory, and end up hurting ourselves more than the ones we would like to get even with. We fail to see how damaging an unforgiving spirit is.

Physicians and counselors alike attest to the damage done by an unforgiving spirit. Some medical doctors estimate that the majority of illnesses they treat are related to emotional problems such as resentment, which is a lack of forgiveness. And counselors see the roots of bitterness reflected in depression, anxiety, and destroyed relationships.

I read one report of an astonished patient who was told by his doctor: "If you don't cut out your resentments, I may have to cut out a part of your intestinal tract."

Fortunately, the man took the doctor's advice. He had been nursing a bitter grudge against a former business

partner. He went to see this man, resolved their differences, and forgave him. When he returned to the doctor, his physical condition had cleared up.

That advice isn't new of course. The greatest physician who ever lived, Jesus Christ, pointed out 2,000 years ago the importance of forgiveness. When he encouraged us to forgive "seventy times seven," He was thinking of our emotional and physical well-being as much as our spiritual. In his book, *None of These Diseases*, Dr. S. I. McMillen reported that a forgiving spirit could save us from "ulcerative colitis, toxic goiters, high blood pressure, and scores of other diseases" including ulcers, asthma, arthritis, neurodermatitis, and heart ailments—all possible effects of resentment.

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Forgiveness: The Power to Set You Free

"Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any; even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye." (Colossians 3:13)

Some time ago in an article in *Time*,¹ inspired by Pope John Paul's forgiveness of his would-be assassin, Mehmet Ali Agca, journalist Lance Morrow wrote, "The psychological case for forgiveness is overwhelmingly persuasive. Not to forgive is to be imprisoned by the past, by old grievances that do not permit life to proceed with new business.

"Not to forgive is to yield oneself to another's control. If one does not forgive, then one is controlled by the other's initiatives and is locked into a sequence of act and response, of outrage and revenge, tit for tat, escalating always. The present is endlessly overwhelmed and devoured by the past." But to forgive is to be free from the past.

Jesus Christ pointed out another disturbing truth about an unforgiving spirit when he said, *"For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."* (Matthew 6:13, 14)

I believe what Christ meant was that an unforgiving spirit on my part is a sure sign that I haven't truly shown remorse to God for all my failures nor experienced fully his forgiveness.

Furthermore, an unforgiving attitude is destructive to personal relationships. It goes without saying that many close relationships, especially marriage relationships, are destroyed not so much by what has been done but by what hasn't been done—forgiving one another.

Wherever I fail to forgive another, a wall of resentment builds up between us and eventually we become estranged. But once I forgive, feelings of love can be restored if that is appropriate. I say "if that is appropriate" because there are times, such as in cases of abuse or a lack of repentance, when forgiveness should not lead to restoration of the relationship.

To forgive another, however, is not to ignore justice. Pope John Paul forgave his would-be-assassin, but the man stayed in prison, and rightly so. And where we want others to forgive us, we will want to do all in our power to make a just restitution.

Even God's forgiveness demanded justice in that he gave his only Son, Jesus Christ, to pay the penalty for all our sins through his death on the cross, for death is both God's judgment and the natural consequence of all sin. Thus the greatest forgiveness we can ever receive is that of God's forgiveness, by confessing our sins to him and asking Jesus Christ to come into our heart and life as our personal Savior.

When You Still Can't Forgive

"...cleanse thou me from secret faults." (Psalm 19:12)

Perhaps you or someone you know has gone through all the "forgiveness steps" we have written about but still can't find it in their heart to forgive someone who has hurt them deeply.

There is one major reason why this can happen. It's when we are unable to tell when we are reacting in proportion to what has happened or when we are over-reacting. We over-react when what someone has done to us triggers anger from past events that have never been resolved. Because of this it is very difficult (if not impossible) to forgive someone for something that happened in the present when we haven't forgiven someone else for what has happened in the past. And unfortunately, what we fail to resolve we are destined to repeat in one form or another.

For example, while this is perhaps an extreme case, James Townsend tells about Mildred McWhorter who "has worked for nearly thirty years with troubled families at a mission center surrounded by dilapidated houses in north Houston, Texas. She is known as "Miss Mac" to folks in the area.

"Once she spotted eight-year-old Gilbert

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walking with his hands over his head. When asked why he was doing that, Gilbert replied, "I can't tell you. My mama did it."

"She found that large sections of skin under each arm had been rubbed away and blood was running down Gilbert's side. Eventually Miss Mac learned that Gilbert's mother had put a burlap sack over his head and arms. She had tied his arms over a clothesline where he hung for hours. If Gilbert cried, his mother would beat him with a broom or pull his hair out. She did this because Gilbert reminded her of her father.

"Miss Mac spent months working with this troubled family, which contained nine children. When family hurts and resentments go unresolved—as they apparently had between Gilbert's mother and her father—they can be passed on to hurt the next generation."²

In working with hundreds of divorcees in recent years, it seems that only a small percentage are willing to be ruthlessly honest with themselves to see and admit what they contributed to their failed marriage. Most want to blame their spouse for the breakup. They simply don't see or even want to see how much their over-reaction caused by unresolved relationships (especially with one

**REMEMBER:
FORGIVENESS IS A
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or both of their parents) was a major contributing factor (or even the primary cause) of their failed relationship and/or relationships. It is no wonder that the Bible "hammers home" the tremendous importance of forgiving everybody who has ever hurt us—whether it was yesterday or on day one of our life. This is not an over-statement, for a child who was rejected from birth or hurt in childhood has deep pain that needs to be confronted and resolved through to forgiveness in order for him to fully live as an adult. It is a fact of life that hurt people hurt people. Thus every hurt needs to be healed and every "hurter" needs to be forgiven—not so much for their sake, but for the hurt one's sake and that of their loved one.

Remember: Forgiveness is a process, not a "quickie" event!

Suggested prayer: "Dear God, please help me to see if there is a deeper cause behind any physical, emotional, or spiritual symptom I may have and lead me to the help I need to resolve these issues. Help me to face any impaired relationship with a friend or loved one, lead me to the help I need to resolve this, and help me forgive any and all who have ever hurt me. Thank you

for hearing and answering my prayer. Gratefully, in Jesus' name, amen."



Footnotes:

¹*Time*, Jan. 9, 1984.

²James Townsend, *Peloubet's Sunday School Notes* 1993-1994, Elgin, Illinois: David C. Cook Publishing Co., 1990).

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(Continued from page 1)

And yet, how can she dare desire this? She is only five feet, six inches tall. Her best apparel is poorly-matched even by local standards, and in heaven, it would be worse than rags. Her brain operates in deep negatives most of the time, and can only move up to the speed of clover growing in a field on occasion. Her silhouette is slowly gaining the shape of a hill, and her singing voice wanders. She still hasn't grasped the mechanics of musical transposition, and she is blind without her glasses. How can she ever expect God to allow her such a privilege?

Behind all His mighty power and energy; behind His massive intellect; behind His unsurpassed beauty and creativity; behind His measureless wisdom and His detailed knowledge of past, present, and future; behind a mind that is larger than the universe He has created, is a meek and lowly heart! A heart that will not malign Nina, a heart that accepts her and generously shares His presence with her. This is what gives Nina courage to seek His face, to tell Him she loves Him and that she wants to absorb as much of His character as she is able to hold.

When Jesus returns, it will be as a conqueror. He will ride forth in majesty and glory. The ground will cleave beneath Him, for it cannot hold Him. His word will give new life to the dead, and at the core of this great Conqueror is meekness and lowliness of heart. Nina knows her heavenly Father is like this, for Jesus came to reveal the Father (John 14:9), and she longs to see both God and the Son of God, and worship them for their great beauty of character.

"Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." Matthew 11:29



[This concludes the "Encounters With Jesus" series. Onycha Holt, however, plans to continue to encounter Him on a daily basis. She would like you to join her in that pursuit.]

A Four-Square View

Vicki Kritzell

This article represents a compilation of information from four sources. Mel Piper, the young woman who lived at OBREC, sent the following from a paper she wrote for her "Cross-Cultural Perspectives" class, concerning what she observed while in Homa Bay:

According to the census, as of December, 2001, there were 16,053 orphans with no parents and 23,929 half orphans, with one parent alive, in Homa Bay. Orphans can become a financial burden on families who adopt them since so many Kenyans live in poverty; however, many are left without anyone to care for them. Those whose parents died from AIDS are less likely to be absorbed in a family since many may be stigmatized or abandoned by relatives.

This, and the now overwhelming number of orphans who are left to fend for themselves, contributes to the number of street children throughout Kenya. Street children are usually malnourished, uneducated, use drugs, and resort to violence and/or stealing in order to survive. For many young girls, the only way to generate income is to become a commercial sex worker. Since Luos generally shun condoms and females cannot negotiate sex, it is very difficult to prevent HIV infection. As a result, many orphans who are just trying to survive after their parent's death from AIDS, find themselves forced into prostitution and acquiring HIV, especially since the prevalence rate in Homa Bay District is so high. It takes a lot of financial resources and love to rehabilitate these street children. They need basic care such as food, clothing, shelter and, even though many are not afforded it, an education. Although the physical needs of street children are well known, their emotional well-being is often overlooked. There are virtually no services which help orphans deal with the loss of their par-

ents and how HIV/AIDS has impacted them. Many of them have unresolved emotional problems, stunted growth and retardation from sniffing glue, are malnourished, and uneducated, reflecting the dim present and future that Kenya faces as a result of HIV/AIDS.

There is a 14-year-old girl, Akinyi, at King's Kids orphanage whose mother and sisters all became fishmongers in Suba after her father died. Her family is homeless and gets food and shelter mainly from providing sexual services to men. Although she did not mention it, there is a very high chance that her mother and 15-year-old twin sisters are all currently infected with HIV from simply trying to survive. In order to escape this life, she hid in the luggage compartments of a bus bound to Homa Bay and became a street child there until she was brought to the orphanage. This is an example of poverty forcing women and children into sexual services in order to survive, while simultaneously dramatically increasing the risk of HIV infection.

Through the eyes of street children and my brothers and sisters at King's Kids Orphanage, one can begin to understand the detrimental impact that HIV/AIDS has had on Kenyans. They represent all of the problems brought about by this destructive virus and barriers that some cultural practices have had on eliminating HIV/AIDS in the Luo community.

Of course, the Kings Kids Orphanage (OBREC) has been disbanded, with over 30 of the children now residing with Edith and Maurice Anyango. We received the following letter from

Edith and Maurice concerning life with the children. First, Edith:

I am very proud to say that living with these orphans has been a blessing to my family. Our home has become a small church whereby daily we have Scripture reading, songs and prayers. The children enjoy these prayers and, to me, it is as if we are in a small heaven. On the night of 16th November 2002, after we had conducted evening prayers, Susan Bhoke (one of the orphans) said, "If at all my dad and mum can miraculously come out of their graves to see the way I live and where I live and the kind of life I am leading, then they can go back to their graves happy that their daughter is in the hands of the Lord." These children have really changed my perception of life and truly I love them. At times I always think it was

God's plan to put these children under our care.

Let me just give you shortly the daily program in our house. We wake up early in the morning; as early as 5:30 a.m. The first thing we do is we sing a song which says, "Lord in the morning thou shalt hear my voice ascending high, to thee will I direct my prayer, to thee lift up mine eye." Then Pastor reads a scripture verse, then followed by a word of prayer from one of the orphans

who is on the program. We made a program so everyone knows his/her duty.

This morning devotion takes only ten minutes. Then they brush their teeth, wash their faces (girls bathe in the morning) and by this time I make breakfast for them. By 6:00 a.m. all of them have taken their breakfast and off to school. Those in the upper primary (class 5-8) are required to arrive at school by 6:30 a.m. Those in the lower are expected to be at school by 7:30 a.m.



Susan Bhoke

Then comes lunchtime and they always find that I have already prepared their lunch. They eat and go back to school.

Those in the lower primary have a short sleep in the afternoon (nap), then later play for one to two hours. Later all of them have their bath at 5:30 p.m. (I take the initiative to bathe the young ones). By this time the upper primary are also back, they also bathe and wait for their evening porridge. Then they relax and do their assignments given from school as I prepare their supper. By 8:30 p.m. we've already eaten. Then we have 20 minutes for devotion.

This time Pastor takes the preaching program. At times I take the whole program, at times we give the program to the bigger orphans to make them acquainted with the Bible. Then we sing the last song and pray. Then we go for rest till the next morning.

We go to church on Saturday (Sabbath) and in the afternoon we have songs and Bible studies. Then by 5:00 p.m. we go for a nature walk. This gives the children a time to walk and see the beautiful creation of God. On Sundays they do the cleaning and washing. We don't want them to be idle. We believe that much sin results from idleness.

As their mother who stays with them, I can say that I am greatly blessed because I have become a family missionary. I realize that not all can go as missionaries to foreign lands, but all can be missionaries in their families and neighborhoods. Thank God He has given me the duty of being a home missionary.

My last word goes to the donors: On behalf of my husband, the orphans and the committee which was formed, I thank you (donors) so

much for the support that you've given to the orphans through us, both monetarily and materially. It is through this support that we are able to be where we are. May God bless the work of your hands. Keep up the good work. Pray for us, too, that we offer the best service to these orphans. No tongue can describe the generosity of all of you ladies and men who are spending every dime into helping these orphans. What I can tell you is that by giving to the needy you are banking into a treasury where no thief approaches nor moth destroys (Luke 12:33-34) and you have found the secret of true religion (James 1:27). God bless you all.

Now, Pastor Maurice:

Ever since we started staying with these children (orphans) in our home we have received different testimonies and questions from them. I take this opportunity to share with you some of them and how I answered them. Most of them are sad experiences and I hope you will continue praying for these orphans. Always I try to give my answer according to what the Bible says.

Daniel Matiku: This is a young boy of about the age of nine years. After I had taught them about the love of God and how God loves children Daniel asked me, "Pastor, if God loves me, then why did He allow my father and mother to die leaving us suffering without food and clothes? Is it because my parents were bad to Him and annoyed

Him and so He decided to kill them?"

For a young boy like Daniel, he requires a very simple explanation for him to know why people die. And also, he needs to understand that this death is not the end of life for those who walk with God. It is also right for him to understand that



God is not out to kill people. It is the devil who desires their destruction. (John 8:44) The Bible says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16) In this case, those who die trusting and believing in the Lord will be resurrected (1 Thessalonians 4:16).

This is the first resurrection. I told Daniel, "God knew that death will leave children to be orphans and He has made a proper plan of taking care of the orphans and that is why you are here today. God has touched some people's hearts to assist you so that you can go to school, eat, get shelter and clothing."

Collins L. B. Ogolla: This boy wanted to know if his father will go to heaven. He asked, "My father was not a Christian and never attended any church. He drunk too much and always beat Mum. That kind of reckless life made him get AIDS so he died, and months later my mother died too. Mom was innocent. It was Daddy who brought this deadly disease to her. But I can remember that before his death he accepted Jesus as his personal savior, just in his deathbed. Pastor, do you think my father was forgiven his sins?"

I compared the life of this boy's father to the life of one of the criminals who was crucified the same time Jesus was. After realizing that he was a sinner who needed forgiveness and requested Jesus to remember him, the words of Jesus to that criminal clearly tells us that his sins were forgiven. (Luke 23:39-43. I told this young boy that, "If at all your father truly repented (for who can read the heart,) then his sins were forgiven."

Jerome Obudho: He narrated the life he led in the streets. Having realized that life was becoming worse at OBREC, Jerome was



lured to go to the streets of Homa Bay by bigger street boys who promised him protection and provision of daily meals. He accepted and followed the boys. Their work was very simple. They (young street boys) spent the whole day sleeping in hidden places where the older boys used to hide them. When night comes, the bigger boys used them to steal things.

After breaking a window glass where the owner is away at night, the smaller boys like Jerome are forced in through the window to steal items in the house and pass them through the window. He says that they used to steal radios, utensils, carpets, shoes, stoves, etc. But even after doing this, the older boys never fed them as they had promised. After selling these stolen items, they leave the younger ones hungry and they use that money to buy glue that they sniff and bhang and other illicit drugs. He narrated how he really suffered in the streets.

One woman who happened to know Jerome saw him in the company of this wrong group. Since the woman was afraid of the older boys, she sent some men who went and took him. Jerome spent a night at that woman's home and the next day the woman brought him to my house. They found us at the church. God has saved the life of this boy from the streets. God is great. There are many more questions and experiences from these orphans and I hope we shall share them in the future. Continue praying for these children.

And last, an excerpt from a letter to his sponsor from Duncan Agoro—a seventeen-year-old boy:

Let me tell you about my new home (pastor's house). It is a bit far from the town centre but to me it is the very best place for us. The compound is very big with flowers and enough space. The house has big rooms and is clean and we feel

happy. We no longer live in Homa Bay. Not many people live around this place. The slum where we were with Lawrence is congested. All we could see are people leading a careless life that in the end they get AIDS. This place is good and very good. I wish we could live here forever!

He continues to tell of four things he has learned already at the Pastor's place. The first is prayer. The children have a daily family worship and are given Bible verses to contemplate and then speak to the others about. (Duncan related he was very nervous about speaking in front of the others, but with Pastor's encouragement, soon felt quite good about it.) The second is at mealtime:

We all eat together as a family. We eat fruit on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. These fruits are pineapples, paw paws, oranges, bananas, avocado, mango and watermelon.

Last week the children shared dried fruit sent by one of the sponsors, and had pictures taken while enjoying it.

We eat like children of the King. Starving is no more here. Very different from OBREC where we used to starve. God is good and it is God who planned for these orphans a better home.

The third thing Duncan mentioned was the sleeping room, noting more beds and mattresses were needed for the 32 children who are living there. The last thing shared was that all have worked together with Pastor and his wife to start a garden. He told that they have a seed bed of tomatoes, cabbages and onions, which will be ready to transplant in three weeks. The children like the garden work.

We are very encouraged by the huge amount of communication we are receiving from all involved in this pro-

ject. We are hoping to be able to support Pastor and Edith in this endeavor by sponsoring the children and helping buy the needed supplies for his family, which has grown from 5 members to nearly 40. The biggest expense currently, aside from purchasing household items, is the necessary school fees, supplies, and uniforms, as school will be starting on January 6, 2003. Unlike the United States, even children in primary school must pay a fee to attend, and wear a uniform. It is very important for these children to be in school and, as we mentioned in the last issue, the payment of fees is far less than trying to operate a school, as we were doing before.

If you are interested in "adopting" one of the unsponsored children, a monthly contribution of \$30 will guarantee all needs met. If you cannot send that much, any donation would be a blessing and \$20 per month will enable you to have the name and photo of a child to write to and love. All monies sent go directly to the children and should be mailed to *Hearth to Hearth*, P. O. Box 247, Pineville, WV 24874. Please do not send money directly to the orphanage, but do send letters! We will send you a bi-monthly report of all news from our new family to keep you updated as to happenings there.

Do not get annoyed for all that happened because I see now that God wanted it to happen so that the children could be moved to a better place. God's plans are beyond our understanding and He can use a way which seems bad to us in order to lead us in something good after.

This bit of wisdom is a quote from Duncan, a young man who has experienced more hardship in his short life than we can ever imagine, but now has hope. These children have been through so much together, and are happy to be reunited and living in a loving home. Let us help keep them there.



Jerome Obudho



MA AND THE AUTO

Before we take an auto ride Pa says to Ma: "My dear,
Now just remember I don't need suggestions from the rear.
If you will just sit still back there and hold in check your fright,
I'll take you where you want to go and get you back all right.
Remember that my hearing's good and also I'm not blind,
And I can drive this car without suggestions from behind."

Ma promises that she'll keep still, then off we gaily start,
But soon she notices ahead a peddler and his cart.
"You'd better toot your horn," says she, "to let him know we're near;
He might turn out!" and Pa replies: "Just shriek at him, my dear."
And then he adds: "Some day, some guy will make a lot of dough
By putting horns on tonneau seats for women-folks to blow!"

[Edgar A. Guest began his illustrious career in 1895 at the age of fourteen, when his work first appeared in the Detroit Free Press. His column was syndicated in more than three hundred newspapers, and he became known as "The Poet of the People."]

A little farther on Ma cries: "He signaled for a turn!"
And Pa says: "Did he?" in a tone that's hot enough to burn.
"Oh, there's a boy on roller skates!" cries Ma. "Now do go slow.
I'm sure he doesn't see our car." And Pa says: "I dunno,
I think I don't need glasses yet, but really it may be
That I am blind and cannot see what's right in front on me."

If Pa should speed the car a bit some rigs to hurry past
Ma whispers: "Do be careful now. You're driving much too fast."
And all the time she's pointing out the dangers of the street
And keeps him posted on the roads where trolley cars he'll meet.
Last night when we got safely home, Pa sighed and said: "My dear,
I'm sure we've all enjoyed the drive you gave us from the rear!"



Edgar A. Guest

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