

Hearth to Hearth

Woman to Woman



Vol. 6, No. 4

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

July/Aug. 2003



MY GLIMPSE INTO GOD'S "MIRROR"

By Grace P. Cox

The mid-morning sultriness of summer engulfs me as I step outside the air-conditioned comfort of my home. Letters in

hand, I set off down the long driveway toward our mailbox by the gravel road. The dogs are obviously uncertain about the wisdom of leaving their shaded napping place to accompany me, but they decide to go on the chance that I might be headed to regions beyond the mailbox. In that case, they would forget about napping and delight themselves romping along the ditch, sniffing all the scented messages left by other animals while they slept, and making forays into the fields to play hide-and-seek among rows of cornstalks. The mailbox is, however, my destination. After I have placed my letters inside and raised the flag I turn back, and the dogs reluctantly follow.

It is just a trip to the mailbox, but the walk there and back is made special today because I am eagerly expecting an answer to my early morning prayer. During my devotional time this morning I read this statement: “Rightly interpreted, nature is the mirror of divinity.”¹

I love Christ's parables in which He used lessons from nature to illustrate divine truths; nevertheless, Romans 1:20 has remained a mystery to me: “...the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead [divine nature]...” *I yearn to understand that Scripture more fully, and my prayer this morning was, in essence, Please, God, teach me to see You more clearly in Your mirror of nature. Help me to understand You better through the things You have made.*

Thinking about that Scripture and remembering my prayer, I am acutely aware of the tangible, visible, audible wonders of the natural world around me as I enjoy these moments out of doors. A border of Queen Anne's lace adorns

the roadside, faces turned expectantly toward the sun. Fat bumblebees hum busily among clover blossoms. Songbirds are trilling happy notes from their perches in the apple trees, and a mockingbird sits atop the telephone pole, practicing its rendition of every song it has ever learned. A gray squirrel in a nearby tree, outraged at our invasion of its territory, chatters indignantly.

The sun shining through mountains of cumulous clouds is hot on my back. The grass is still wet from yesterday's rain, and invisible steam wafts all about us, the dogs and me, as the heat from the sun draws the moisture from grass and soil. No breeze ruffles my hair; the air is still and muggy this morning in the mid-south.

As I make my way toward the cool comfort of indoors, I find myself pondering flowers and plants; the way they always turn, seeking the light. I think also about the sun, the way it draws moisture up from the earth and from bodies of water, and how naturally that occurs. At the first blush of dawn I have seen fog begin to form over the sur-

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MAIL CALL:

We appreciate and thank you for all the work you ladies do to provide us with the paper—and sponsoring the orphans. *Michigan*

Like your new “Recipe Corner”!
Tennessee

We're very happy and excited to hear from you so quickly! It is wonderful that you already have a list of children to choose from!... I'm wondering if you know the size or height of any of the girls there at the orphanage?... We'll be praying that God will help us make a good choice. It's so sad how many other children had to be turned away! But I'm sure that God is blessing the project, and that we CAN make a difference, even if it's only one child at a time.

Our means are limited, but my strength is that I love to write letters and want to keep a good contact up with these “adopted” children. In other words, as you said, the contact is the most important thing so they have a sense of “family” again. We want them to feel this connection with us, if they are willing to write to us.

One more comment: Your magazine is wonderful—so spiritual and well-done; I've been very impressed and am glad that [my friend] shared it with us.

California

Mercy's photo is proudly displayed in our home. *Minnesota*

Could you please send me information on how my husband and I could get involved in sponsoring two orphans. Preferably a boy and girl of any age would be nice. Or whomever is the most needy. Thank you for your help. Will be looking forward to hearing from you soon. *West Virginia*

Your *Hearth to Hearth* is just a wonderful paper that has blessed me many times. *Arkansas*

I just read about *Hearth to Hearth*. I am very interested in re-

Guest Editorial

More Glimpses...

By Grace Cox

On the very day, according to the calendar, that summer began, the sweet, cool, dampness of springtime departed, and the thermometer on my porch registered 90 F degrees for the first time this year. I am thankful for the seasonal changes, and reluctantly admit that never-ending springtime, as beautiful, energizing, and refreshing as it is, might become monotonous after a while. The passing of the seasons is an age-old reminder that life itself is transitory, that time doesn't slow down and wait for us, that we have only this short life in which to be fitted for eternity.

In the area where I live, the farmers grow mainly winter wheat, soybeans, corn, and cotton. A variety of spiritual lessons can be studied while observing what is happening in the fields during the different seasons. Winter wheat, sown in late summer or early fall, thrives in cold, wet soil, and the emerald acres of growing wheat bring cheer to an otherwise barren winter landscape. The wheat fields in winter remind me that, even if my life at some given moment seems bleak and forlorn,

there are many bright areas of blessings that speak of cheer and hope.

Corn, cotton, and soybeans would never sprout and grow if planted along with winter wheat. The farmers know what to plant, and also when and where to plant, in order to reap the best harvest of each crop at the proper time. Likewise, God, our heavenly Husbandman, knows the exact conditions required by each individual for optimal spiritual development. He can be trusted though life may seem dreary and cold, even as the environment in which winter wheat takes root and grows. We can trust Him though our conditions may seem too hot and too dry, even as they must to the crops that grow best in summer.

We hope you find this issue of *Hearth to Hearth* a thoughtful aid on your road to spiritual maturity, to your completeness in Him and, finally, to your place in that heavenly garner. We encourage you to keep looking up, for harvest time is surely near and our redemption indeed draweth nigh.

When the time comes for God to garner in His grain, may He reap a bountiful harvest, and may it include every one of us!



ceiving this publication. I'm from the Netherlands and I don't know if it is possible to send this to me.

I tried to read some of the publications but it was not possible with my computer, and I was a little disappointed, because I have never read any Christian publications especially designed for women, so that makes it more interesting for me. If it is possible to send me *Hearth to Hearth* this is my address...I wish you a lot of blessings, wisdom, health and stay strong to keep on doing the good work. I hope the door will be opened for me too. *Netherlands*

I am looking forward to being part of this ministry. *West Virginia*

Thanks for your March letter update on Homa Bay Hope Centre. I would like to start sponsoring a child. Please send me the information. *Michigan*

I sincerely appreciate the newsletter. It has wonderful articles!

New Mexico

I do enjoy *Hearth to Hearth* very much. My heart really goes out to these orphan children. I want to help all I can... Our prayers are for you and the orphanage. *Tennessee*

I read about *Hearth to Hearth* and would love to receive it in my home.

Georgia

EDITOR'S NOTES

» **This issue** of *Hearth to Hearth* is very late, and we apologize for that. As you will see, Esther had no opportunity during the month of June to prepare the paper for printing and mailing. When you understand why, we are confident that you will overlook its late arrival in your mailbox.

» **Esther became** a grandmother again on May 28 when her daughter, Marshalla, gave birth to a baby boy, Austin Dean Chadwick. Esther traveled to California to be with Shelly, Tim, and Rachelle (Austin's big sister), for three weeks to help before, during and after his arrival (and to be sure she didn't miss the event). Our congratulations to her on this happy occasion!

» **It saddens us**, however, to report that, when Esther had been home from California for only a few days, her mother, Mattie Laurell, passed away. The day before her funeral, which was in Michigan, Esther's mother-in-law, Goldie McDaniel, also passed away. Her funeral was in Iowa, so Esther and her family traveled directly from one funeral to the other.

Our sympathies and our prayers go to Esther, George, and their family; we are very sorry about their losses. It makes us anxious for the day when death itself "is swallowed up in victory." (1 Corinthians 15:54)

» **Correspondence** has fallen behind during the same period of time and Esther is working hard to catch up. Please be patient in the meantime.

» **A special thank you** to Grace Cox, former editor of *Hearth to Hearth*; for her help in the preparation of this issue. We needed all the help we could get.

» **Moving?** If you have changed your address, please kindly notify us to avoid missing any issues, as well as help us save on expenses. Thank you for your help.

» **Keep your ears open**, because children are still saying the cutest things! Their unintentional wit and wisdom is refreshing and often humorous. Please share with us things that your own or your friends' children say, for a future Wee Wit & Wisdom mini-story!

» **Be thinking** about something you could submit for consideration for a future issue. We need articles. If you have an idea, but don't know how to write it up for publication, just write it down in your own words and send it to us. If the idea is something that we can use, we will edit it and help you make it ready to be printed.

» **Your comments**, either pro or con, about what you read in *Hearth to Hearth* are solicited. Please take a minute and write us regarding what has impressed you (favorably or otherwise) in this issue. We look forward to hearing from you.

» **Thank you** again for your continued encouragement and support. Your prayers are especially coveted and greatly appreciated.

Recipe Corner

Tofu from Soy Flour

Procedure:

3 quarts boiling water

Stir in 2 cups soy flour which has had enough cold water stirred into it to make it pourable.

Stirring with a spatula, cook on low heat and let simmer—just barely boiling—for 45 minutes.

Then ADD: ½ cup lemon juice OR 2 ½ tsp. Epsom salts as you turn off the burner. Remove from hot burner.

After it curdles, let cool awhile.

Put 4 layers of cheesecloth in colander and strain until tofu is as dry as you want it. (1 ½ to 2 hours)

Forming into block:

If you want a block of tofu, punch holes in a metal loaf pan about ½ inch apart on the sides and bottom of the pan. Line the pan with 4 layers of cheesecloth, ladle in the curds and cover with cheesecloth. As a weight, use another loaf pan filled with water, placed on top of the covered tofu.

To store finished tofu, remove from cheesecloth and immerse it in cold water. Place in covered bowl in refrigerator.

Will keep for a week.

Betty Fairchild, Mt. Vernon, Ohio

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 7)

George McDaniel

Nutrition - 3

This month we continue the subject of nutrition, discussing what happens to the food after it has been digested and taken into the body from the small intestine. Before it can be used by the cells of the body for energy, growth, carrying on of normal activities and repairs, it has to be processed even further. The digested food compounds go into the portal vein and are taken first to the liver. The liver is the largest gland of the body and one of the most complex of human organs. It weighs about three pounds and is located in the right upper part of the abdomen. It is the body's central processing factory and one of its major storehouses of food.

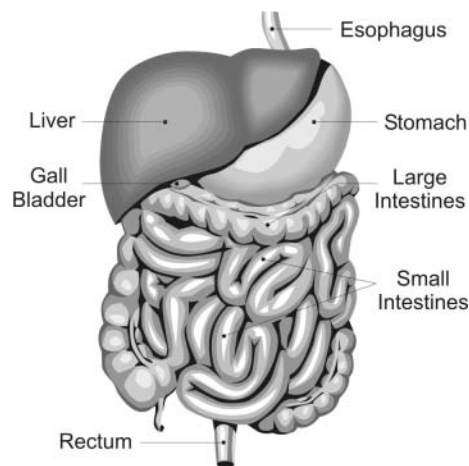
The liver performs many essential functions. It aids in digestion by producing bile and discharging it into the small intestine where it assists in the digestion of fat. It produces bile continuously, even when there is no food in the stomach. Bile is stored in the gallbladder for use when needed. Someone who has had his gallbladder surgically removed will have to eat a low-fat diet the rest of his life.

The liver stores food obtained from digestion and releases it into the blood when the body needs it. The chief fuel for the body's cells is glucose, which is sometimes referred to as blood sugar. The liver stores excess glucose in the form of glycogen, which is a starch-like compound. If the blood sugar gets too low, the liver will change some glycogen into glucose and release it into the blood. Glycogen is also stored in muscle tissue. If the store of glycogen gets low, the liver can change fatty acids and amino acids into glucose. In this way the liver ensures a constant supply of glucose for the needs of the body.

The liver also changes other sugars, such as fructose, which is obtained from cane and beet sugar, into glucose, which can then be used by the body for

producing energy. The body cannot use any sugar other than glucose for energy production.

The liver also stores vitamins, especially A, D, E and K, and the B Complex group. The liver makes various blood proteins such as albumin, globulin and fibrinogen. Albumin is the major protein of the blood plasma. It raises the osmotic pressure of the plasma and helps keep fluid inside the blood vessels. A person in the late stages of starvation has a lower amount of albumin in the blood. Fluid leaks out into the tis-



sues and the person will swell up all over. Globulins are part of the immune system. They help fight infections. Fibrinogen helps to seal off a broken blood vessel by forming a clot.

The liver makes cholesterol, which is essential. All cell membranes contain cholesterol. Cholesterol in the skin, when acted upon by ultraviolet light from the sun, is changed to Vitamin D. Many of the body's hormones are made from cholesterol. Cholesterol transports fatty acids in the blood. Cholesterol has received a bad reputation due to its association with hardening of the arteries and a higher risk of heart attacks and strokes. It is being learned that the problem is not the cholesterol itself, but wrong dietary choices.

Another function of the liver is detoxification of poisons. The liver makes poisons less toxic and rids the body of them, either through the bile or the kidneys via the blood stream. This function of the liver was originally designed to deal with metabolic wastes and substances produced by the breakdown and death of body cells. For example, when the liver changes an amino acid into glucose, ammonia can be formed. This is toxic. The liver changes it into urea, which is less toxic and which is then eliminated through the blood to the kidneys. When a cell dies, because of normal wear and tear or because of injury, white blood cells called macrophages clean up the debris and it is taken to the liver for processing; what can be recycled is saved, the rest is eliminated.

The liver also has to deal with unnatural toxins to which it is exposed daily. This includes such things as food additives, (preservatives, coloring agents, flavorings), agricultural poisons (insecticides, fungicides, herbicides), alcohol, and drugs, both illegal and legal. Every doctor's office has a copy of a large book called The Physician's Desk Reference, commonly referred to as the "PDR." This book is provided by the pharmaceutical industry and lists all currently used prescription drugs. These are what doctors prescribe as medicine. Many of these "medicines" have liver toxicity listed as a potential side effect. The liver tries to detoxify these substances and, frequently, is itself poisoned by them. Long term exposure to toxins can result in the death of liver cells and the formation of scar tissue. This is called cirrhosis of the liver. Alcoholism is the most common cause of cirrhosis. Cirrhosis is the sixth leading cause of death in the USA. Because of the liver's role in the body, it is also frequently involved in infections and cancer.

Another role of the liver is the manufacture of amino acids. There are ten amino acids, needed by the body for making proteins, which cannot be made by the liver. These have to come from the food we eat. These are called “essential amino acids.”

As a result of the work of the liver in processing the raw materials obtained from the digestion of food, nutrients are made available to the cells in a form that can be easily assimilated by them for their needs. As long as everything is working well, we have good health. When the process slows down at some point, we begin to suffer.

Another organ that assists the body in using nutrients is the pancreas. It is located just under the liver. We read in the previous article of its role in producing digestive enzymes. It produces two other substances that are essential for carbohydrate usage. Within the pancreas are small groups of cells called Islets of Langerhans. These consist of two types of cells, Alpha and Beta cells. Alpha cells produce glucagon; Beta cells produce insulin. When blood sugar gets low, the Alpha cells produce glucagon, which signals the liver to change glycogen to glucose and release it into the blood. When the blood sugar goes up, the Beta cells produce insulin. Insulin has several actions to help lower blood sugar. First, it enables the cells to take glucose in through the cell membrane. Glucose has to be actively transported into the cell, and insulin helps in this process. Second, any excess glucose is changed into fat and stored in specialized fat cells for future use. Insulin is necessary for this also.

So far in this series we have mainly considered the primary nutrients: fats, proteins and carbohydrates. There are also other essential nutrients needed by the body.

Enzymes: These are essential chemicals that are the foundation of all bodily functions. They are catalysts in the chemical reactions that continually occur in the body. Every action of the liver, for instance, is mediated by en-

zymes. Enzymes are made up mainly of protein. There are at least 20,000 different enzymes at work in the body. Life could not exist without enzymes. Each enzyme has a specific function in the body that no other enzyme can fill. The shape of an enzyme is so specialized that it will initiate a reaction only in certain substances.

While the body manufactures enzymes, it can also obtain enzymes from food. Unfortunately, enzymes are very sensitive to heat. Temperatures of 120 to 130 degrees Fahrenheit will deactivate enzymes; so, in order to obtain enzymes from food, it must be eaten raw.

Vitamins: Vitamins are essential to life. They help regulate the metabolism and assist in the processes that release energy from digested food. It is believed that vitamins act as coenzymes to carry on the activities necessary to life. In other words, the enzyme will not function without the vitamin to assist it, and the vitamin is useless without the enzyme.

Some vitamins are water soluble and some are oil soluble. Water soluble vitamins must be taken daily as they cannot be stored and are excreted within a few days. These include Vitamin C and the B Complex. Oil soluble vitamins can be stored for longer periods of time in the body fat and the liver. These include Vitamins A, D, E and K. Both types are needed for proper function of the body.

Minerals: Minerals are naturally occurring elements found in the earth. Rocks are made up of mineral salts. The soil is formed of small mineral particles and decaying organic matter. Plants take up the minerals for their own use and they are then passed on to people when they eat the plants.

There are two groups of minerals as relates to human use: macro minerals, needed in large amounts, and micro, or trace minerals, needed in small amounts. Minerals needed in large amounts include calcium, magnesium, sodium, potassium and phosphorus. Trace minerals include zinc, iron, copper, manganese, boron, chromium, se-

lenium, iodine and about 60 or 70 others needed in extremely small amounts.

Macro minerals are used by the body to form strong bones and teeth and to serve as electrical conductors in and around the cells. Micro minerals become part of the structure of enzymes or function as coenzymes.

Vitamins and minerals should both be taken in balanced amounts. Too much of one can sometimes cause reduced intake of others. For instance, too much zinc can cause a deficiency of copper. The best source of nutrients is food grown in soil that contains all the elements needed for health of plants and people. Supplements should preferably be from whole food sources, and should be balanced, not isolated nutrients. Deficiencies of specific nutrients in an individual need to be dealt with knowledgeably.

In discussing the work of the liver, I have mentioned how it detoxifies harmful substances. There are other organs of the body that assist in the elimination of toxins. Their work is also essential to health and will be covered in the next issue.



[George is a registered nurse who enjoys doing research into how the body functions and how to keep it in optimum health. He writes from Pineville, WV.]

Wee Wit & Wisdom

After putting her children to bed, a mother changed into old slacks and a droopy blouse, and proceeded to wash her hair.

As she heard the children getting more and more rambunctious, her patience grew thin. Finally, she wrapped a towel around her head, stormed into their room, and put them back in bed with stern warnings.

As she turned and left the room, she heard her three-year-old say, in a trembling voice, “Who was THAT?!”



[E-mail—Author unknown.]



You Can't Re-read Phone Calls

By Nancy Campbell

I realized this in January, 1999, when my mother passed away. My parents lived in New Zealand and we were here in the USA. I had always kept in touch by letter, but before, during and after the Christmas season, I was so busy with people coming and going that I didn't get time to write. Of course we were communicating by phone. On one of my last calls to my mother I asked her what she was doing.

"Oh, I'm looking through the photos and re-reading all the letters," she replied. I felt very convicted. Oh, why hadn't I written a letter since Christmas! She could be re-reading a more current letter. I realized that even though phone calls are special and we can hear one another's voices, we can't re-read phone calls! At this time, although she was getting weaker, we didn't realize how ill she was. I booked a fare to get back to see her. In the end I had to get an earlier flight but, sadly, I didn't make it to New Zealand in time. She passed away on my journey home.



Over two years before this, I decided to do a Memory Book for my parents. I wrote to friends and family all over the world, asking them to write an incident they remembered of my parents' lives, and I received so many wonderful memories and stories. I was still

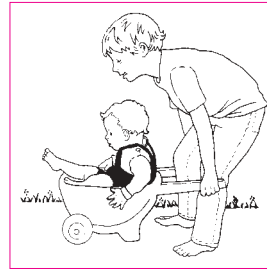
working on it in January and planned to take the book back to New Zealand on my visit. On the way over, I wrote a poem for my mother, celebrating her saintly life. I planned to read it to her when I arrived but, sadly, she never got to hear it. I had left it until too late!

Phone calls are a fading memory but the written word lasts!

If you have parents and other members of your family far away from you, phone them, of course. What would we do without our telecom system today? But don't forget to write too. Phone calls are a fading memory but written words last! They can be read over and over again. They can affect a person's life. They can be preserved for future generations.

It is so easy with our modern communication to forget about the old art of writing. We must not lose it. Autobiographies, biographies and memories of past generations are written because people took the time to write! Oh I know it takes time. It takes discipline to sit down and put our

thoughts on paper. A phone call is much easier-but remember, it will never be re-read.



Think of all the ways you can write memories. Write to your parents and your family and ask them to keep your letters. It will be a record of your lives. You may like to take up my idea and do a Memory Book of your parents. But start in plenty of time. I started when my parents were 80 years of age! I

think it would be better to start when they are in their fifties! This memory book of their lives will not only be a blessing to them, but also a record of their lives for your children and grandchildren and the generations to come.

Ask your father and he'll tell you!

It is also important to write down the stories our parents tell us and to ferret from them as much history of their lives and their parents' lives as we can. At present, my father is staying with us here in Tennessee, and I am taking this opportunity to write down as much as he can tell me. Actually, the Bible tells us to do this. Deuteronomy 32:7 says, "Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations: ask thy father, and he will shew thee: thy elders, and they will tell thee..."

Once again, may I encourage you not to wait too long before you do this? We don't always have our parents with us. Even as my father and I have talked together these last few weeks, there are questions that are unanswered because my father hadn't asked his parents before they passed away!

At the moment, I am in the process of writing a legacy for our children-all the stories and memories that I can gather on both sides of the family. I'm also writing a legacy of the kind of character we want to pass on to our children, our grandchildren, and following generations. It's still not finished, but I am plugging away at it.

Speak and write encouraging words to each other every day!

Think of as many ways as you can to write encouraging words to your children. Write poems for their birthdays and special occasions, or to remind them that you love them. They don't have to be great literary works.



It's easy to write a rhyme if you take some time to think about it. I now write a poem for each of our grandchildren when they are born. I write about the circumstances concerning their birth and also an inspiring word for their future destiny. These memories can be kept to inspire them throughout their whole lives.

My gift to Pearl for the celebration of her first baby was a book of poems of her life. I wrote poems about the different stages of her life, the memories of her childhood and as she



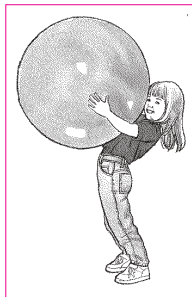
grew into womanhood. I think it is one of her most treasured possessions, and it will be a memory of her life for her children and grandchildren.

God commands us in Hebrews 3:12,13 to "encourage one another every day." We must remember to speak words of encouragement to each member of our family each

day, but it is also important to write words of encouragement. You can do this at family mealtimes too. Write cards for your husband and each of your children with a special encouraging word on them and place the cards by their plate ready for them to read when they come to the table.

On another evening you could have a "Bless Daddy Night." A couple of days before, get each of your children to start writing a letter, a card, or a poem for their father, telling him all the good things they can think of about him. These can be placed at Daddy's plate waiting for him to read. These can all be kept as "treasures" to be read in years to come.

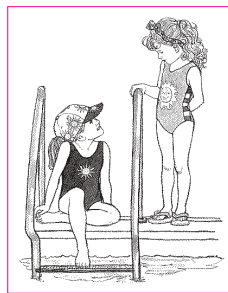
When my father arrived from New Zealand to stay with us we had a big family gathering-26 of us altogether. I decided to write a limerick for each person. Instead of just typing the name on their Name Place Card I wrote a limerick about them. I had to think of 26 limericks! You will think of many other ways to write special memories for your family.



(Continued from page 1)

face of rivers and ponds. Long before I feel the warmth of the sun's rays on my own face, the water senses it and responds, evaporating into mist, rising, rising skyward.

I am impressed that my heart should respond as quickly and naturally to the drawing power of God's love as flowers, plants, and water respond to the power of the morning sun. I think of David's words: "When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek." (Psalm 27:8) Suddenly I sense that God is at this very moment beginning to answer my prayer, revealing Himself and His ways to me

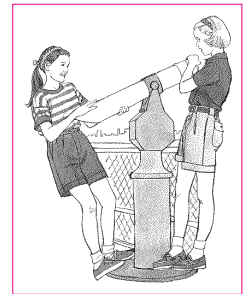


Try keeping a family journal!

It is also a good idea to keep a family journal. A personal journal is good, but I like a family journal, even though it is often hard to get everyone to write in it. The journal can be kept in a special place in the kitchen where anyone in the family can write about what is happening at the moment, or about a

special incident of the day or whatever their thoughts are at the time. Visitors can write in it when they come. It becomes a memory of your lives and the people who are a part of your lives for the years to come.

This is very Biblical too. God commanded Moses to record the happenings of the children of Israel. Numbers 33:2 says, "And Moses wrote their goings out according to their journeys by the commandment of the Lord." When David was king of Israel, he appointed Jehoshaphat to be the "recorder" or the "remembrancer"



of the happenings and events of the people of Israel. The Living Bible calls Jehoshaphat "the historian." (1 Chronicles 18:15) Mother, I know that in your busy days, it is hard to find time to journal, but perhaps you could appoint a 'historian' in your family who could be responsible to write the happenings of your family each day. Or even better, encourage the whole family to write in the family journal.

Communication is the spice and the delight of life. Keep encouraging one another daily. Keep phoning all your family and friends. But don't forget to write! It's only what you write that will be remembered correctly in the years ahead and for the future generations.



[Reprinted from *Above Rubies*, a magazine and web site devoted to encouraging mothers and families. Used with permission. Visit them on the Web at www.aboverubies.org.]

as I look for Him in His mirror of nature. By His grace, I will continue looking and learning.

Thank you, God, for the warming, cleansing, healing, drawing power of both the sun and Your love. May my heart respond to the power of Your love just as quickly and naturally as flowers and plants and water respond to the morning light.

¹Ellen G. White, *The Upward Look*, p. 182.



[Grace Cox writes from Trenton, TN, where she enjoys home-making in a rural setting.]

Spotlight on Orphans

Bittersweet Progress at the Homa Bay Hope Centre

By Vicki Kritzell

There is a term in the Japanese language that best describes the current events at Homa Bay Hope Centre. It is “Wabi-Sabi,” which means beauty and sadness.

Beauty

The past two months at the Centre have been filled with beauty. There has been an outpouring of interest and love for the orphans. We now have 38 children sponsored, compared with only 15 as recently as April 9th! Many of the families adopting have taken not just one child, but two so as not to leave a sibling un-sponsored. Several packages have been sent to the children containing not only personal gifts, but also items to share with those who have not yet been blessed with a sponsor. Many families have received wonderful letters of appreciation written carefully by their child. Lest you think there may not be a child left for you, we still have over 30 to go! And, when sponsors are found for them, we will surely have more. As long as children are living in the streets, our work will continue.

As reported in the sponsor’s letter (which is sent out to those who are especially interested in this project), the orphanage has moved out into the country to a larger compound away from the city of Homa Bay. Should any of our readers like more information concerning details of this move, and other pertinent information concerning the orphanage, please contact *Hearth to Hearth* and we will put you on the mailing list for our regular bi-monthly sponsor’s letter. We have been contemplating the possibility that the Centre may need to be renamed since it is no longer in the Homa Bay area, but this would be left up to Pastor and the Committee. The mailing address has, so far, remained the same.

Although Susan Achieng (the little deaf girl) has not yet gotten a sponsor,

money has been collected to send her to a special school. We are still praying for a family for her, as we feel the communication from someone who cares for them is as important to these children as the funds.

Two of the older boys, who were far behind in school because they weren’t able to attend while living in the streets, have been able to enroll in special classes to learn vocational skills. (They were embarrassed to attend primary school because of their ages, 15 and 16.) These skills will take them far in life, and also be an asset in maintaining the Centre.

If you would care to write to any of these, or the other children, please do. It would mean so much to them. You can send the letter to *Hearth to Hearth* Ministry, PO Box 247, Pineville, WV 24874, and we will send it on for you.

Required workbooks have been purchased. We are trying to plan ahead now to cover the cost involved in enrolling the children in school for the fall term. There are still many household items needed, such as large cooking pots and benches, which there just hasn’t been enough money for yet. This is primarily due to the increased cost and scarcity of food occurring now until the harvest in August. Pastor told us one day he spent nearly five hours trying to secure needed maize. News sources advise nearly 15 million people will die of starvation in Africa before the end of the year if there is not immediate intervention by both private and governmental agencies. Because of your generosity, the children of Hope

Centre are not going to be among these statistics.

The dedication and love shown by Pastor Maurice and Edith to these children constantly amaze us, as witnessed by some of the pictures presented for your enjoyment. When questioned about the photo of him washing the children’s dishes along side Edith, this is what Pastor replied: “You asked if I help with washing utensils. Yes, I do.

Sometimes I even cook. So many people in Africa don’t do it but let me tell you that it strengthens love in the home. This is one thing that many of my fellow Africans have not discovered. It is traditionally considered a weakness to help a woman with the house chores. I consider this tradition primitive and denying men the right to show love in the home. After

all I am no longer controlled by African traditions but by the Word of God. We are in the world but not of the world.” What a wonderful example of love he and Edith are setting for the children in their trust.

Sadness

Recently there has come much sadness. In the last issue a young girl named Sisiria told the story of her past hardships and how she and her brother came to the Hope Centre. She related how they loved it there, and felt like part of a big, happy family.

A few days ago, Pastor sent us news that she was very ill with what they initially believed to be malaria. When she did not respond to the treatments, they took her to the clinic, where Edith stayed by her side and tended to her. There she was diagnosed as having typhoid and sent to a private

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hospital in Homa Bay. Sisiria then contracted meningitis and was unconscious for the last few days of her life. She passed away on June 11.

The hospital would not release her body to the morgue until the bill was paid, which amounted to over 30,000 kshs. This is not a huge amount of money in American dollars, for nearly a week of hospitalization (less than \$500), but certainly not something we had budgeted for. However, after realizing that hospital services might be needed in the future, for another child, the bill was paid.

Unfortunately, in spite of the importance of the need to respect her ancestors' Luo tribal customs, and knowing the negative impact it would have on Pastor's reputation as well as the work at the Centre, we were unable to provide the additional \$500 needed

for 1) the morgue to release her body, 2) the body to be transported to the ancestral home (an island) and 3) the proper Luo burial to take place. We were greatly saddened by this, but knew that we could not provide for her burial and feed the living children as well.

We have been very concerned about the health of the other children. Typhoid and meningitis are very communicable, but no one else has become sick yet. Typhoid is treatable with the early administration of antibiotics. Pastor assured us the water supply at the compound is clean, and they are trying to insure proper hygiene to prevent further outbreaks. Sisiria had typhoid in 2001 from drinking the polluted water of Lake Victoria and, although recovered, was still carrying the disease.

Please pray that none of the other orphans become ill, as well as for the safety

of Pastor and his family in this serious situation. Pray for Sisiria's brother Abel and the other children, who loved her so much, to find strength and understanding in yet another loss. Last but not least, pray for God to open more hearts to these orphans. Even those among us who have the least are blessed with riches far beyond these children's dreams.

Because of the turmoil of the past weeks, Pastor and Edith were unable to write anything timely for this issue of *Hearth to Hearth*. In place of their usual contributions, we hope you will enjoy the pictures, which are indeed worth a thousand words!

God Bless you for your continued support of the children.

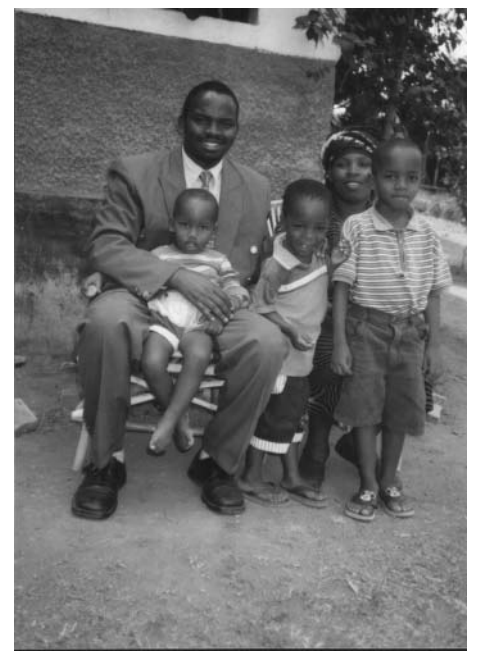


[Vicki Kritzell is our Hope Centre correspondent. She writes from Clyde, Ohio.]

Photo Album

Below, Pastor Maurice is seen helping with kitchen duties: making chapattis and stew, feeding the younger children and helping Edith wash the dishes. More of the large pots shown in the photos are needed.





Photos L-R, top-bottom beginning on page 9: (1) Night, Maurene, Edith, Maurice, Elga & Sisiria. (2) Esther, Florence Atieno, Faith & Molly. (3) Valary, Beryl, Esther, Maurice, Flevian, James (Pastor's son) & Auma. (4) Edith & Maurice. Page 10: (1) Edith with the younger children: Back - Francis (her child), Edith holding Beryl, Flevian, James (her child), Eric Abuor. Front - Austin (her child), Dickens, Joshua, Neema & Paul Gumbo. (2) A package for Beryl, Dickens and Sisiria from their sponsors. (3) A package for Samwel Ouma from his sponsor. (4) Books received for the library. (5) A package for Collins L. B. Ogollo from his sponsor. (6) Boys lying on their beds, just as they sleep. Three smaller ones on top: Jerome Obudho, Daniel Matiku and Dickens Ook; two larger boys on the bottom: Evans Omondi and Samwel Ouma. (7) Pastor's family. Children: Francis - 2, James - 4 & Austin - 6.

The



of God

Part 4

The Guarantee that Jesus is Just Like God

by David Clayton

I am going to ask a question that most people don't think about. How do you guarantee that Jesus was the perfect image of God? Now let's see if we can answer this question by using an illustration. The Muslims say that Muhammad was a son of God. The Hindus say that Krishna was a son of God. The Bible says that Adam was a son of God, and different religions all claim that their founder or their guiding light was a son of God. What do they mean by this term, "son of God"? What they mean is that the person they are talking about received special illumination from above and had great insight. In other words, the term "son of God," to them, means something like a prophet; somebody whose mind has been illuminated so he can teach you what God wants you to know.

However, the Bible says something about Jesus that sets Him apart by light years from any other being who has ever walked this planet. The Bible says that He is the "only begotten Son of God." This is the premier confession of the New Testament. If you have read the Bible, you know this to be true. It is what the apostles focused on, and the truth that they insisted people should believe. When Philip met the Ethiopian eunuch the man said, "See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." (Acts 8:36, 37) In fact, 1 John 5:5 says, "Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?"

The guarantee that we have a perfect revelation of God in Christ is the fact that Jesus was truly the Son of God. We know this by the rule of kinship. To put it in a simple way, like produces like. We find this principle in Genesis 5:3 where it says, "Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image." That is the rule of kinship. Now the rule of kinship makes us know that Jesus must have been like the one who brought Him forth. If Jesus was not really the Son of God, no matter whether you say He is the Son of God by designation, or He's a good friend, or companion, or great prophet, you break that rule of

kinship. And you don't give me a guarantee that God is like that, if He is not the Son of God. If Jesus Christ is not the Son of God in the sense of being begotten, you break the rule of kinship.

God is all-powerful. He had the power to take a baby and, by His Holy Spirit, take over his mind. He could have made this person live a perfect life, so that he never once did anything wrong. He could have made this person take up babies in his arms. He could have made him perform miracles and heal the sick and go about ministering to people.

Why is it that that would not have been a good demonstration? This person would be a robot. He would not be a free person. He would be like a channel. It would be God simply taking over a body and using that body to put on a show. But the thing about the life of Jesus that means so much is that He was an independent, free Being. He was not a robot, and by His own choice He chose to live a sinless life. Why did He choose to live that way? Jesus lived that way because He had the divine nature of God. How can I guarantee it? Because He is the only begotten Son of God, and like begets like! He had to be the Son of God, and because He was the Son of God, we have the guarantee that His character is just like God's. The relationship is so perfect: Jesus is in the bosom of the Father. What you see in Jesus is what God is.

Now why is this truth so important? When a Jew, Greek, Muslim,

Rastafarian, or any other non-Christian for that matter, confesses: "I believe that Jesus is the Son of God," what does that do to him? What does that mean to him? Why is that so important? Think about a man who is a Muslim, for example, and then he comes and says, "I believe Jesus is the Son of God." What revelation bursts in his brain when he says that? Simply that Jesus was once in heaven? Is that all that comes from that? He learns something immediately about God if he confesses Jesus is the Son of God. Do you know what he learns immediately? First, he learns that God loves him so much! I mean, could the Almighty God love him enough to send

How do you guarantee that Jesus was the perfect image of God?

such a Person? God didn't take a human being and place His Spirit on that human being. No, it was the real Son of His bosom! This was guaranteed to break the heart of this Greek or this Jew or this Muslim, and if it hasn't broken your heart it is because you don't believe it as you should.

The second thing that would happen is that he would recognize the greatness of sin. "What is it that I've done in my life that justified the death of the Son of God? What have I done?" Have you ever asked yourself that question and you couldn't come up with an answer? You don't think you did anything that really deserved such a price? What is it that I have done that the Son of God would have to die for me? Why? Now if you meditate on it, think about it enough, it's going to bring you to the realization of how dangerous sin is. Too many of us play with sin; we compromise with sin; we become familiar friends with sin; but an understanding of what it cost God to buy me back from the power of sin would give me an appreciation of how I should relate to sin.

The third thing that would happen is that when a Muslim comes to believe that Jesus is the Son of God, immediately his concept of God would change. The Muslim god is a hard being. He says, "Convert them to Islam or destroy them." This is the policy of Islam; it says the whole world must become Muslim, and they go about it aggressively, and they will do anything to remove the obstacles that stand in their way of achieving this. However, if a Muslim comes to accept Jesus Christ, immediately his concept of God changes, doesn't it? Right away the concept of a loving Father, which he sees in Jesus, is going to transform his life. And that is why, when a man can say, "I believe Jesus is the Son of God," it means so much.

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[This is part four of a six-part series. Pastor David Clayton may be contacted at Restoration Ministries, Po Box 23, Knockpatrick, Manchester, Jamaica, WI. His phone is 876-904-7392.]

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