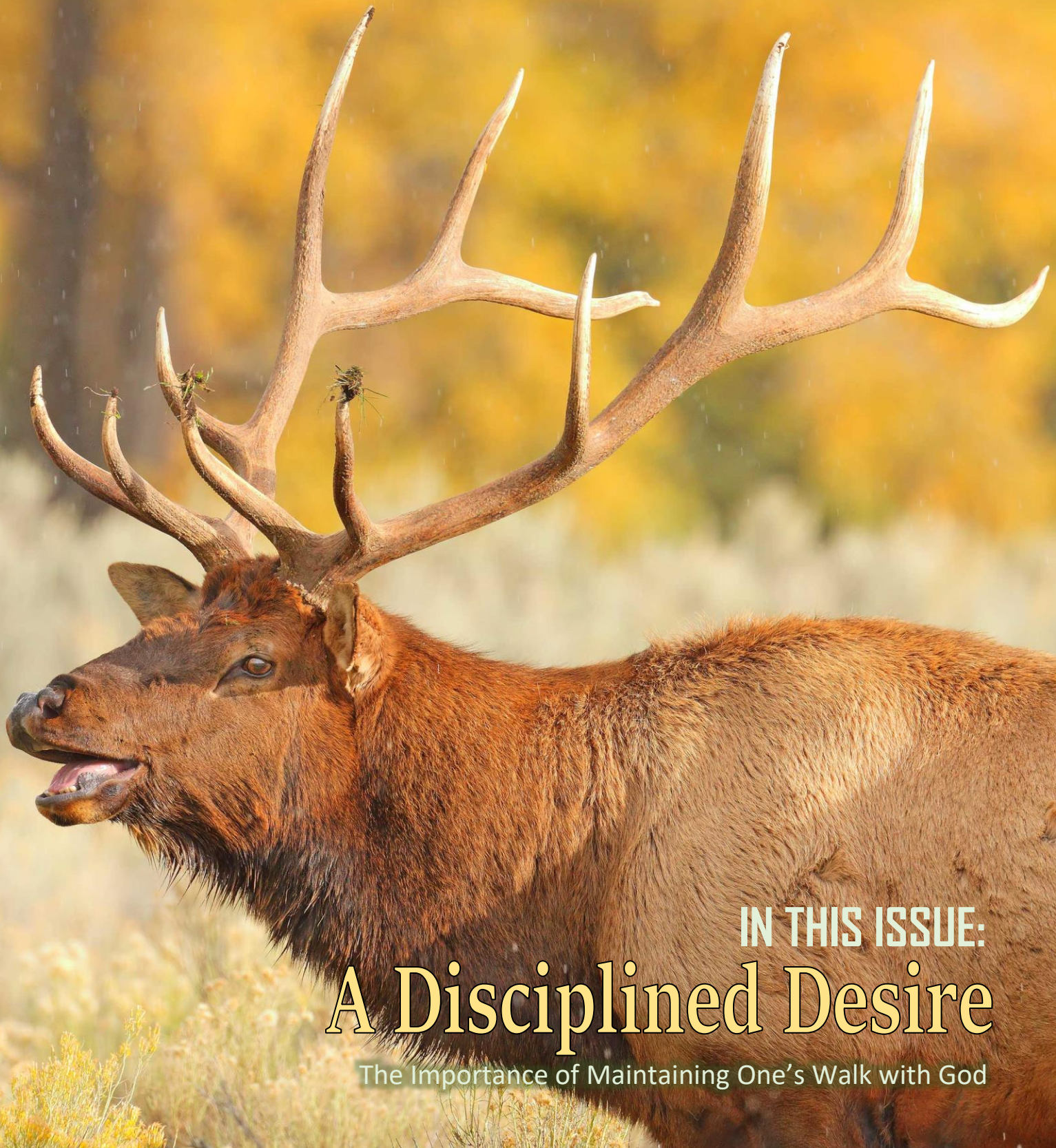


MIDWEST

Pilgrim News

Fall 2020

Publishing Holiness since 1962



IN THIS ISSUE:

A Disciplined Desire

The Importance of Maintaining One's Walk with God



From the Editor

A Disciplined Desire

Charles Simeon was one of the noted vicars of the Church of England in the early 1800's. For 50 years he preached from the pulpit of the Holy Trinity Church in Cambridge, and people crowded the sanctuary weekly to hear his every word. Simeon was also a fellow at Kings College and lived in the apartments that overlooked the courtyard in the college complex. His second story dwelling provided him an exclusive opening to the roof where he would often walk while he talked with the Lord. Without fail, he would begin his day pacing the rooftop lost in the worship and pursuit of his God. In fact, he was so zealous for his private time with God that his rooftop soon became referred to on campus as "Simeon's walk." A testimony of this devotion comes from one of his private journal entries: *I have spent this day as I have for these last 43 years, as a day of humiliation; having increased need of such season every year I live.*

Now, keep in mind that Simeon's life was far from a life of leisure. Not only did he minister to a large congregation, he stayed in touch with the student body at Cambridge, met with church and missionary leaders around the world, wrote thousands of letters in longhand, edited more than 50 books of his own sermons without a computer, and served as one of the founders of several major missionary organizations. This was a man in demand and yet he refused to miss his private time with God. He considered his devotions the most important part of his day and would not allow anything or anyone to sidetrack him.

Certainly, it would benefit us to follow his example. In the busy-ness of our lives and ministries, it can be easy to allow the spiritual disciplines to fall by the wayside. We can get so involved doing things for God that we neglect the more important part of being with God. Prayer, bible study, meditation, and silence all suffer loss as we rush about in the spirit of John Bunyan's character, Busy Work, from Pilgrim's Progress. There are Sunday School lessons to study, sermons to prepare, calls to make, fliers to print, e-mails to respond to, and that is not to mention the demands of advanced education, side jobs, and family. Where does it all end? At what point do the demands of life bow to the priority of uninterrupted time spent alone with God? Sadly, for some it never ends. The unbridled chaos of life continues to dominate one's time until life itself is spent and the opportunity lost.

Eugene Peterson warns ministers especially against this tendency in his book [The Contemplative Pastor](#). He bristles at the term "busy pastor" and likens the phrase to that of an "embezzling banker" or an "adulterous woman". He calls such a practice an "outrageous scandal" and a "blasphemous" affront." He goes on to say that the reason clergymen are busy

(Continued on last page)



TABLE OF CONTENTS

The President's Page	Page 3
PHC Evangelists Listing	Page 4
Timely Advice	Page 6
The Presence of God	Page 8
The Benefit of Context Scheduling	Page 9
Media Matters	Page 10
Youth Page	Page 11

Editor: Rev. Timothy R. Forsee
E-Mail: midwestphc@gmail.com
Website: www.midwestphc.org
Webmaster: Daniel Plemmons: pauldplemmons@gmail.com

Submission Policy: If you have news, articles, or photos that you would like submitted for publication, please send them to the editor at the above email address. We reserve the right to choose which information is published, as well as the right to edit the submissions in order to fit spacing requirements. The Midwest Pilgrim News is a digital publication of the Midwest Pilgrim Holiness Church and is published quarterly. There is no subscription charge. For hard copy subscriptions, send \$13 annually to the editor. (1000 Hospital Rd. Franklin, IN 46131)

Mission Statement: The mission of the MPN is three- fold: 1.) We desire to glorify God and facilitate the worship of His person. 2.) We seek to promote the Gospel of Christ with its beautiful message of heart holiness. 3.) We seek to be an encouragement to our readers spiritually, as well as an informative source of information to those who relate to, or are interested in, our Conference.

Cover Photo: The cover photo was taken by Michael Fuller. Mike lives in Duaneburg, NY and attends the Middleburg, PHC. His photography has been featured in Ranger Rick, National Wildlife, Audubon Magazine and other notable publications. He enjoys traveling the USA and Canada with his camera, cross country skiing, flying his powered – parachute, and other outdoor activities. We will be featuring Mike's photos of God's amazing world over four issues of the MPN.

Great Grey Owl, Yellowstone National Park



Cover Photo: Bull Elk, Yellowstone National Park

WE SUPPORT



Youtube

www.midwestphc.org



THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Rev. Don Nichols Conference President

While reflecting on our recent “camp meeting” at the Kokomo PHC, there are several things that come to mind: 1. As far as I know this was the first camp we have held in a local church since the beginning days of the formation of the Conference when camp meeting was held at the Decatur, IL, PHC. When we were confronted with the closing of Frankfort Camp Ministries for the summer, I conferred with the Conference Council on what we could do. Bro. Bryan Line shared that his daughter suggested we might be able to have an “IHC” style camp, with no lodging or dining. I immediately liked the idea, and we began to plan.

2. It was wonderful how the Lord brought the evangelistic team together, and how well they worked together in each service. Rev. & Mrs. Darrell Stetler, our scheduled evangelist and singers, had a conflict with the date change. Paul Stetler, hearing of our reschedule, called to ask if the HSBC PR team could stay all three days, and from there I presented the idea of him serving as an evangelist and the quartet doing the singing. As you know most evangelistic singers are scheduled well ahead. The Council concurred with the plan and all went smoothly. We thank Dr. Paul Kaufman for his faithful ministry. His preaching was encouraging, anointed, and effective. God blessed the ministry of Rev. Paul Stetler as well, and Ablaze Quartet from Hobe Sound Bible College served capably as evangelistic singers. Ryan Burley led the singing, and their repertoire fit very well with each service, including an ordination service. Their spirit and demeanor were such a blessing to the camp. Stephanie Burley and Connie Hilligoss accompanied the congregational singing and played beautiful preludes and offertories, though the plates were not passed. We thank God for the workers He gave us for camp. 3. Pastor and Mrs. Bryan Line and the Kokomo PHC did not really know what to expect but had the facility ready and were such good hosts. We thank them from the bottom of our hearts. 4. The crowds were good, and the people were ready for camp. The singing was good. The giving was good. The preaching was good. The times of prayer were good. The fellowship was good. 4. With the Covid-19 virus threatening, we took precautions, placing hand sanitizer in appropriate spots around the building. We used the overhead for singing. We did not pass offering plates.

I know, no one who attended those services time frame following the camp. Jeremy and his team made available “snack-stand” honored for 23 years of service as with the youth, organizing a lock-in and consecration over our newly elected Youth AWC, HSBC and UBC set up displays and before the evening service. Rev. Danny ordained in a beautiful service on Thursday led children’s services concurrent with for meeting with us in Camp 2020, though almost everything was different.



We did our best to be prudent. As far as contracted the virus within the two-week Fish brought his mobile cooker and he fare as usual. Rev. John Zeigler was Conference Youth Director, and worked youth services. He also led a prayer of Director, Rev. John Forsee. PVBI, all by HSBC sang for inspiration services Tilley and Rev. Zachariah Robberts were morning. Sarah Robberts and her helpers several services. We are thankful to God

Speaking of camp meeting, I must share this bit of news with you. As you are most likely aware, our Conference moved two years ago to sell our Conference Center and campgrounds at Anderson, IN. The Council has accepted a cash offer from a local Anderson ministry. The sale should be completed in the next few days. We thank the Lord that He has led through this process, and trust that we can continue to have camp meeting for as long as Jesus tarries.



Many wonderful things have been happening around the Conference. I recently had the honor of leading a pastor-installation service at Muncie; Rev. Austin and Christy Line became pastor. The Southerlands were honored for serving for over three years there as interim pastor. The PHC at Madison have called Nathaniel and Trish Grissom as pastor. They will be installed

October 4th, Lord willing. Rev. Wayne and Tabitha Kennedy have accepted the call to pastor the Kokomo PHC, where Rev. Bryan and Rhoda Line have served for the last 25 years. The Lines are going into evangelistic work. The Evansville PHC had a mortgage-burning service leaving them free of debt.



We congratulate the pastor and people on this great accomplishment. Rev. Martin Laramie and Rev. Christopher Dewhurst have received doctorates in their respective fields. We congratulate them on this great

To Page 5



Union Bible College Campus
Photo by Esther Seeley

PHC EVANGELISTS AND SONG EVANGELISTS

Rev. Craig and Jo Dahler: Phone: 317-374-1141; E-mail: craigdahler@yahoo.com

Jerald and Becky Glick: Phone: 317-796-5307; E-mail: glickmusic.jg@gmail.com

David and Connie Hillgoss: Phone: 317-474-3377

Rev. Bryan and Rhoda Line: Phone: 765-628-2522; E-mail: b.line7@yahoo.com

Rev. Mark Ranke: Phone: 812-267-3551; E-mail: mranke@juno.com

Daniel and Sarah Rundell: Home Phone: 317-502-3527, Cell Phone: 765-621-6016, E-mail: daniel84@gmail.com

Rev. William Stucker: Cell Phone: 765-461-3895, Home Phone: 765-450-6908, E-mail: sflash101@aol.com

Rev. Don and Fayerene Walden: 317-341-5237; E-mail: donandfay@embarqmail.com

Photo by Esther Seeley



Nate and Jennifer Stainbrook attend the PHC in Scottsburg, IN. Their boys' names are Carter, (6) Oliver, (3) and Arthur (4 months)

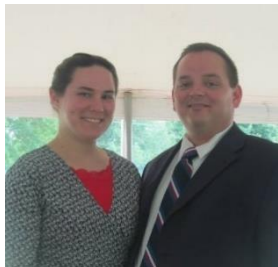
- Due to Covid-19 the Youth Lock-In: that was scheduled for September 18, in Noblesville has been canceled.
- October is Pastor Appreciation Month. Plan now to honor your Pastor in a creative way.
- Pastors Retreat: October 20-22. Oblong, IL.
- Conference Christmas Dinner: Noblesville, PHC. Dec 4, 7 PM, Noblesville PHC, Family Life Center.

Pastor Receives His Doctorate

Rev. Chris Dewhurst was awarded his Doctorate in Clinical Psychology on August 27, 2020 from the University of the Columbians. Congratulations Dr. Dewhurst on this important milestone in your life.



Two Pilgrim Churches Receive Pastors



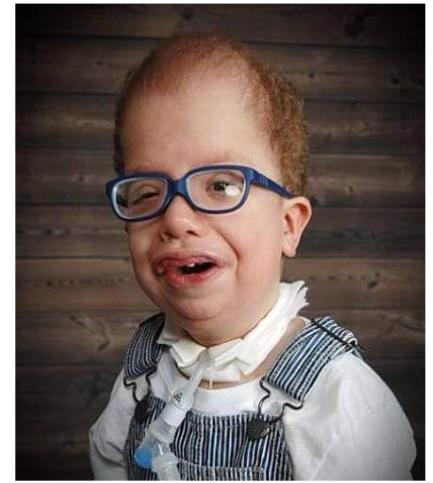
Rev. Wayne and Tabitha Kennedy have accepted a call to the Kokomo, IN PHC. Nathaniel and Tricia Grissom have accepted a call to the Madison, IN PHC. Congratulations to these churches and pastors.

achievement. We mourn the passing of two Pilgrims. Sister Margaret McElwain died after a brief bout with cancer. A beautiful celebration of her life took place at her hometown, Greeneville, TN. Her son, Dr. Randall McElwain, at her request shared the message; a beautiful tribute to her and her Savior. She was a daring lady who served as a Pastor's wife, missionary to Taiwan and enjoyed the excitement of the helicopter, hot air balloon and hang-gliding. Here is a picture of her at age 76. She wanted to parachute from a plane on her 80th birthday, but her children did not think that was a good idea.

Carson Dewhurst died unexpectedly after facing many challenges over his short lifetime. He was two weeks shy of his 7th birthday. He lived much longer than expected, thanks to the mercy of the Lord and the tender care of his loving family, Dr. and Mrs. Christopher Dewhurst, our pastor at the Lexington PHC. We will look for him in Heaven.

Now we enter the season of revival. May God help us as a Conference to pray, fast, and hold on for real revival in these challenging times. Please be registered and vote in the national elections. Never has one been so important. Historically only about half of evangelicals are registered to vote and about half of them vote. God and our founding fathers have given us this right and responsibility. May we be faithful!

Rev. Don Nichols



Carson Emery Dewhurst
September 10, 2013 - August 27, 2020

American Devotional Life

An Evangelical Alliance study found that evangelicals struggle to find the time for both reading the Bible and praying each day. Of the over 1,500 surveyed, nearly all (90%) said they read the Bible regularly, but only 31% said they set aside substantial time each day to pray. Although 87% agreed that every Christian needs to spend time alone with God on a daily basis, and that without that their faith will suffer, 42% said that they find it difficult to find time on a disciplined basis to pray and read the Bible.

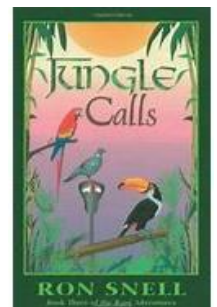
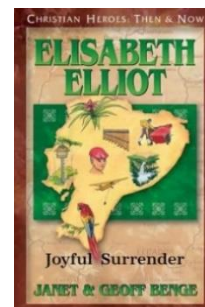
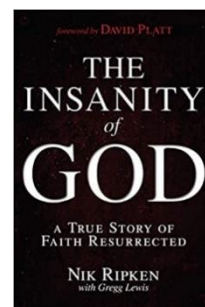
Nearly a fifth (18%) said they do not have a fixed pattern of prayer but rather pray when the chance or need arises. This figure rises to 29% among those born after 1980. Over half of those surveyed (60%) said they prayed "on the move", while walking or using transportation. When they do find the time to pray, evangelicals are most likely to be asking God to bless their family

"Older people (born before 1960) are more disciplined and structured in their prayer and bible patterns," with 60% of those born before 1960 managing to read their Bible daily, compared to just 31% of younger Christians.

Tellingly, busy Martha was the Bible character evangelicals were most likely to identify with (43%) over faithful Mary. She was selected almost three times more than Mary, indicating that busy lifestyles are a widespread feature of contemporary discipleship," (*Christianity Today, Cath Martin, April 2014*)



Missionary Books Reading Program



For copies of these books, please contact Rev. Craig and Jo Dahler. (317) 374-1141. The cost is \$30 and should be sent to John Forsee: 1413 Westfield Rd. Noblesville, IN 46062. Why not strive for 100% participation in your church this year?

The dividends are more than winning free books.

Timely Advice



Hebrews 12:15

Soul Food Series: Messages and Bible Studies from the hearts of our pastors.

Rev. Bryan Line

I gave this sermon the title of “Timely Advice” because I feel this message is appropriate for us in what we are facing right now in our lives. It is evident by reading the content of these verses that the Hebrew writer is particularly addressing believers in Christ.

One of the reasons I feel this advice is important is because there have been a lot of difficult situations going on in our world that can lead to doubts and worry. Situations that can weaken our faith. I think of John the Baptist, the forerunner of Jesus; the one who baptized Jesus. He heard the voice of God saying, “This is my beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased.” And yet, dark days in prison caused John the Baptist to send two of his disciples to Jesus and ask, “Art thou He that should come, or do we look for another?”

We have had some dark days recently; the storms are brewing. If we get our eyes off the Lord and focus on the storms, our faith will be shaken. Just like Peter as he was walking on the water; he was doing fine until he noticed the storm clouds, the huge waves, the lightning, and the wind. It was at that moment he began to sink.

Right now, there is a huge storm brewing in our land. We cannot afford to focus on the storm. You know, there may be some things that you and I may just need to stop focusing upon, talking about, worrying about, thinking about, trying to figure out, or trying to fix.

Maybe some of us need to fast worry, doubt, fear, discontentment, anger, hurt feelings, or frustrations.

Satan is working hard to try to destroy us, and he often does that through chaos and distress in our life.

I hear the words of Jesus to Peter in Luke 22:31-32, “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not”. With these introductory thoughts in mind, let us look at the “Timely Advice” Paul gives us.

LOOKING DILIGENTLY

Jesus gave us some good examples in the Scriptures of what it meant to look diligently. In Luke 15, He talks about a Shepherd that has 100 sheep in the fold but realizes that one is missing and goes out and searches diligently for the one lost sheep. He also tells the story of a woman who has 10 silver coins and loses one. She will light the lamp,

sweep the floor, and search diligently until she finds that lost coin. Both stories illustrate the thought of looking diligently.

It is important that we as Christians make sure we continue to look diligently after our walk with God. I know this thought alone is basic, but the question needs to be asked, “Are we looking diligently after our spiritual life?” Recently, I read a few quotes from Bertha Munro, an old Nazarene writer. She writes, “Sometimes those with the best opportunities to know about God seem to care the least.”

Many of us have grown up with multiple Bibles in our home, opportunities to go to church every Sunday and Wednesday night, attend revivals and camp meetings, etc. But with all these opportunities to help us in our walk with God, they can become common or unimportant to us.

1 Kings 10:27 says, “And the king Solomon made silver as common in Jerusalem as stones.” Sometimes we do that with the things of God. Bertha Munro, also writes, “I would not let the great opportunities of the things of God make me careless, nor great light make me blind.” Think of all the opportunities we have had to strengthen our walk with God, and yet many let them slip through their hands. Light has been shed upon our path, yet many have been blinded by the Light instead of receiving the Light. Paul’s Timely Advice - Look diligently.

FAILING OF THE GRACE OF GOD

The meaning of this could be three-fold.

1. Losing the favor of God upon our lives. I cannot think of anything worse that could happen in our lives than losing the favor of God upon us. It is one thing to lose the favor of neighbors, friends, and family, but there is nothing worse than displeasing God and losing His favor. Genesis 6:5-8 “And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the Lord that He made man on the earth and it grieved Him at his heart.” What was happening? Man was losing the favor of God upon his life. He was failing from

the grace of God. Vs. 7 “ And the Lord said , I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man, and beast, and the creeping things, and the fowls of the air, for it repenteth me that I have made them.” Vs. 8 “But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.”

What an amazing testimony of Noah! While the whole world was turning against God and living wickedly, Noah found grace in His sight. As the world had lost the grace of God upon their life in this wicked hour, Noah did NOT lose the favor of God in his life. Listen, that is what we want for ourselves. We want to continue to have the favor of God upon our lives. Paul says we must not “fail of the grace of God.”

2. The second meaning is to be deficient of God’s grace working in our lives. When we have his favor, we have his blessings upon us; we receive His protection, power, presence, purity, purpose, privileges, and peace. All of this and more we need daily from God. We cannot afford to be without the grace of God working effectively in our lives. God’s people need to be increasing in the grace of God, not failing of the grace of God. 2 Peter 3:18 “ But grow in Grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

3. The third meaning is to literally fall from the Grace of God. Oh, may God help us in these days not to fall from the grace of God! 2 Thessalonians 2:13 refers to a falling away in the last days. I pray that it may not be so of any of us.

ROOT OF BITTERNESS

Paul gives us timely advice about a “root of bitterness.” This “root of bitterness” does not specifically have to do with the thought of bitterness itself, although it could include bitterness. What Paul is talking about is a bitter root, referring to a poisonous plant. This bitter root springs up in our lives. He says that it is any root of bitterness.

If we are not careful, we can be hurt by many poisonous roots in our life. There is a dangerous process Paul is trying to help us to see. 1. Not being spiritually diligent. 2. Failing from the Grace of God. 3. A bitter root springing up in our life. We are already very fragile, and then suddenly Satan plants a poisonous root in our lives. It could be anything; a disappointment, a misunderstanding, an accident, a loss of a spouse, a disease, a mistreatment, a loss of a job, a failure in temptation, a besetting sin, a worldly passion, a hypocrite, or the faults of others. Jesus mentions a potential bitter root - the cares of life.

I think of Naomi in the Bible. She lost her husband, her two sons, and then returned home to Bethlehem. Those who saw her return asked, “Is this Naomi?” Naomi’ means good, pleasant, lovely, winsome. But Naomi told them to not call her Naomi, but to call her Mara, for the Almighty had dealt very bitterly with her. What had happened? A bitter root had sprung up in her life and it was causing her trouble. Verse 15 “lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you.”

Life has its way of bringing about bitter roots. These bitter roots can be fatal to our spiritual lives. Maybe it is a multitude of bitter roots that have sprung up in our lives. Whatever it is, we must let it go. We must get help from God. We must get victory and healing. Paul says if we do not, it will cause us a lot of trouble. It can cause us great difficulties that can become fatal. It is like an infected sore when you continue to pick at it, continue to scratch it. It will not get better, but only worse. It can be deadly. You can lose a toe, a foot, a leg, a life all because a little infection began, and you did not take care of it.

Paul is trying to say the same thing. A bitter root can spring up. It is something very poisonous in your life and you must let God help you take care of it and bring healing, or it can cause you a lot of trouble. It could even be fatal. He says many have been defiled, meaning many have allowed a bitter root to spring up and it has led them away from the faith and corrupted their lives. The word defiled means to become foul, dirty, unclean, tainted, polluted.

CONCLUSION: The Hebrew writer uses Esau as an example in verse 16 “Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birth right.” 1. He failed of the grace of God. 2. He allowed a bitter root to spring up and sold his birthright for a bowl of soup. 3. He despised his birth right and became defiled. My prayer today is that we take this timely advice to heart and allow God to help us to remain faithful and true in these days.



Rev. Bryan and Rhoda Line have pastored the PHC in Kokomo, IN for 25 years. They recently resigned their church to enter full-time evangelism. We highly recommend booking them for a revival or camp meeting. They have a pastor’s heart, a hunger for God and a passion to reach the lost. Their gifts and experience will bless your congregation. You may contact them at (765) 437-2274 or (765) 628-2522.

If I am walking along the street with a very disfiguring hole in the back of my dress, of which I am in ignorance, it is certainly a very great comfort to me to have a kind friend who will tell me of it. And similarly it is indeed a comfort to know that there is always abiding with me a divine, all-seeing Comforter, who will reprove me for all my faults, and will not let me go on in a fatal unconsciousness of them.

- Hannah Whitall Smith

The Presence of God

Isaiah 6:1-9

Rev. Austin Line

One thing is abundantly clear from this passage of Scripture: Isaiah was in the presence of his awesome Creator, the almighty God. It unmistakably leaps out of the page in verses 1-4, as Isaiah witnessed “the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.” The majesty of God was supplemented by the voices of the angels, crying out with one voice, “Holy, holy holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of His glory.”

Truly, words do not do justice in describing the presence of God; yet, we can better understand this extraordinary revelation of glory by looking at what transpired in the verses that follow.

1. Isaiah Recognized His Depravity

In the presence of God, Isaiah recognized the state that he was in. His initial response was one of humility and shame at the depravity of his own soul. He responded, “Woe is me! For I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips...for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.” In comparison with the holiness and Majesty of almighty God, Isaiah had nothing to claim of sufficient self-righteousness. His own righteousness was, as He wrote later in 64:6, as “filthy rags.” This is not an uncommon response to the presence of God. I remember vividly (and you do too, I am sure) supernatural revelations of the Shekinah glory of God settling in church and camp meeting services. Almost universally, this extra special showing of God brought about convictions in the hearts of sinners, as they were drawn to an altar of prayer to acknowledge their iniquity.

2. God Cleansed Isaiah of His Iniquity

While Isaiah speaks shamefully of his initial state in the presence of God, he gives a glowing testimony to the cleansing power of God. One of the seraphims, taking a live coal, “laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.” There is no greater testimony than this, than that the iniquity that has plagued our lives, bringing guilt and shame, has been removed and purged. I’ve witnessed this first-hand. When the presence of God did come, drawing sinners to repentance, the response of God was one of forgiveness and cleansing. The testimonies that followed showcased the redemptive power of God, as individuals were no longer ashamed in the presence of God but confident in the work that had been accomplished in them.

3. Isaiah Responded to the Call of God

Isaiah remained in the presence of God just long enough to hear the almighty cry out, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” This was not a direct call to Isaiah specifically, and yet, because the presence of God had shown him his unrighteousness and the power of God had cleansed his iniquity, he was now in a position to hear the call of God for someone to go fill the need. His attitude was not one of dread at the call, but one of eagerness or excitement. “Here am I; send me” could be translated into 21st century lingo, “Pick me, God! I’ll do it. Pick me!” This call is for all individuals who come to Christ. I love what Oswald Chambers had to say regarding this passage:

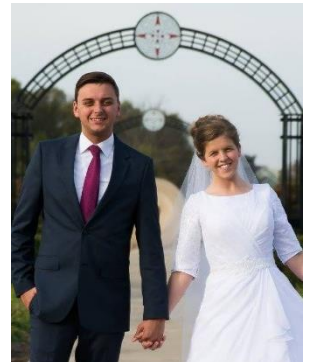
“The call of God is not for the special few, it is for everyone. Whether or not I hear God’s call depends upon the state of my ears; and what I hear depends upon my disposition. “Many are called but few are chosen,” that is, few prove themselves the



chosen ones. The chosen ones are those who have come into a relationship with God through Jesus Christ whereby their disposition has been altered and their ears unstopped, and they hear the still small voice questioning all the time, “Who will go for us?” It is not a question of God singling out a man and saying, “Now you go.” God did not lay a strong compulsion on Isaiah; Isaiah was in the presence of God and he overheard the call and realized there was nothing else for him but to say, in conscious freedom, “Here am I, send me.”

God help us to seek and desire after the presence of God, for that is the only thing that will bring about conviction in the heart of sinners, allowing God to cleanse them from their sin and iniquity, and be called into Christian service for Him.

Rev. Austin Line and his wife Christy pastor the Muncie, PHC.



Quotes to Consider

No horse gets anywhere until he is harnessed. No steam or gas drives anything until it is confined. No Niagara is ever turned into light and power until it is tunneled. No life ever grows great until it is focused, dedicated, disciplined.
- Harry Emerson Fosdick

All the great temptations appear first in the region of the mind and can be fought and conquered there. We have been given the power to close the door of the mind. We can lose this power through disuse or increase it by use, by the daily discipline of the inner man in things which seem small and by reliance upon the word of the Spirit of truth. It is God that worketh in you, both to will and to do of His good pleasure. It is as though He said, 'Learn to live in your will, not in your feelings.' - Amy Carmichael

The Benefit of Context Scheduling

Are you frustrated by a lack of productivity? Do you feel overwhelmed by all you have to do? Why not give context scheduling a try? Context scheduling, or time blocking is a technique used by entrepreneurs to increase their effectiveness regarding the management of their companies. Savvy business owners understand that multi-tasking leaves “task residue” in a person’s mind that hinders their focus on a current task. Task residue simply means that our minds are still on our previous task as we engage the next one. This lack of focus can slash productivity by up to 40%



The chart below is an assignment given to ministerial students during their college training. It is designed to help them understand the importance of time, as well as providing them a guideline for living. Why not take the time to record the current use of your week? That way you can more easily identify lost hours and develop a plan for redeeming them. Pastors be sure to include time for family, devotions, exercise, fasting, and reading spiritual books and magazines.

motivating businessmen to eschew “task-switching” in favor of a systematic approach to their responsibilities. For example, a business owner will assign certain days to focus on specific tasks: Monday is designated for meetings, Tuesday for strategy, Thursday for advertising and so forth. In fact, author Neil Pasricha writes in Harvard Business Review that he has solved his productivity problems by instituting “untouchable days” that shield him from phone calls, texts, meetings, or appointments of any kind. He says that these focused sessions have enabled him to produce his most creative and rewarding work.

Could this practice not benefit pastors and laymen as well? Rather than sitting overwhelmed at our desks not knowing where to start on a complicated To-Do list, why not organize our schedules? We could assign certain tasks to certain hours or days and discipline ourselves to stick to that schedule. For example: devotional time could be from 7-8 A.M. every morning. Sermon preparation could be Fridays after devotions and exercise. Visitation could be on Thursdays from 1-6 P.M. and Saturday morning from 11-1 P.M. etc. Certainly, the effort of formulating a game plan increases one’s chances of following through.

Before discarding this concept as a gimmick, consider the impressive list of benefits that comes from context scheduling. 1. CS enables one to focus their full attention on the task at hand with minimal distraction. 2. It relieves one of guilt knowing that the other tasks will receive attention at the appropriate time. 3. It minimizes procrastination. 4. It helps produce higher quality work in less time, enabling one to reclaim their time for personal and family purposes.

We must remember that busy-ness and productivity are not the same thing. We can drop into bed exhausted from busy-ness without ever having been the productive person God intended for us to be. Context scheduling can be one way we “redeem the time” as Paul commands us in Ephesians 5:16, producing greater fruit for Christ’s glory. Of course, we may need some trial and error before we master our schedule, but we should not give up in this noble endeavor. Talk to your loved ones about your resolve and gain their understanding. With prayer and plain old will power, we can overcome a life of ineffectiveness and disorganization.

Time	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
8:00 AM							
8:30 AM							
9:00 AM							
9:30 AM							
10:00 AM							
10:30 AM							
11:00 AM							
11:30 AM							
12:00 PM							
12:30 PM							
1:00 PM							
1:30 PM							
2:00 PM							
2:30 PM							
3:00 PM							
3:30 PM							
4:00 PM							
4:30 PM							
5:00 PM							
5:30 PM							
6:00 PM							
6:30 PM							
7:00 PM							
7:30 PM							
8:00 PM							
8:30 PM							
9:00 PM							
9:30 PM							
10:00 PM							

NOTE TO WIVES AND MOTHERS: The Fly Lady encourages this concept regarding cleaning. She suggests scheduling 10 minutes a day to do the unpleasant chores such as washing out garbage cans, wiping down the walls, or cleaning cobwebs. When that time arrives, address the task at hand and when your 15-minute timer rings, stop what you are doing and put the cleaning supplies away. You will be amazed at how these allocated moments of time will enable you to do more in the long run than ever before.

Media Matters

Social media addiction is a behavioral addiction that is characterized as being overly concerned about social media, driven by an uncontrollable urge to log on to or use social media, and devoting so much time and effort to social media that it impairs other important life areas.

Are you a social media addict? Does current technology have too great a hold on your life? Answer the following questions honestly to see if you have a problem.

- 1.) Do you spend a lot of time thinking about social media or planning to use social media?
- 2.) Do you share all you do all the time?
- 3.) Do you use social media to forget about personal problems?
- 4.) Do you often try to reduce use of social media without success?
- 5.) Do you become restless or troubled if unable to use social media?
- 6.) Do you know everything there is to know about people you do not know very well?
- 7.) Do you use social media so much that it has had a negative impact on your job or studies?
- 8.) When you wake up in the morning, do you reach for your cell phone or laptop before you reach for your bible?
- 9.) Do you surf the web or check your social media sites for messages during church services?
- 10.) Do you use certain social media apps regardless of inappropriate content?

If you answered “yes” to more than three of questions 1-7, then you may have or be developing a social media addiction. If you answered “yes” to questions 8-10, then you do have a social media addiction. Why not try a digital detox to break the hold social media has on you?

Digital Detox

A time period where someone reduces significantly the time spent using electronic devices. A period of fasting. Other changes can include instituting set times to check instant messages or email, implementing screen-free periods, and turning off electronics at a set time during the evening.

1 Corinthians 6:12 All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

HOW are you DOING in YOUR devotional LIFE?

The average life spends....

1 year, 8 months doing housework

1 year, 11 months socializing

2 years, two months shopping

3 years, 7 months eating and drinking

6 years, 8 months using social media

8 years, 4 months watching TV

26 years, 5 months sleeping

The average time in 2019 spent on social networks was

144 minutes per day.

This is up an hour per day since 2012

The average time Christians spend per day in devotions is

9 MINUTES

This would amount to approximately **5 months, and several weeks** if you started the day you were born and lived 70 years without missing your devotions a single day.

*(This last average includes those who spend no time at all.)

THE SAD FATE OF PRAYERLESS PATTY

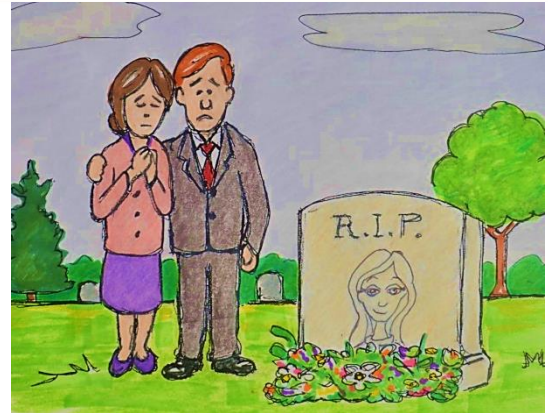
Prayerless Patty yawned and stretched and scrambled out of bed. She combed her hair and brushed her teeth but never bowed her head.

Prayerless Patty checked her phone while gobbling jam and bread. She grabbed her books and caught the bus but not a verse she read.

So, it went day by day though God's Spirit with her pled. And now I am sorry to report that Prayerless Patty's dead.

Poor Prayerless Patty.

Thus, dear friend I warn you as you go about your day. What 'ere you do, where 'ere you go, please take time to pray. If you make no time for God, you will soon draw your last breath. And find that in the spirit realm you have starved yourself to death.



FOR THE CHILDRENS SAKE: Patty did not actually die. The pic of her funeral only symbolizes the death of her faith. 😊

Psalms 55:17 Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.

Job 23:12 I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.

7 TIPS FOR GREAT DEVOTIONS

Suffering from devotional burnout? Need some direction in making this time what it ought to be? Try these 7 tips to turn things around today.



- 1. Choose the best time:** The best time for some is the morning, while others prefer evening devotions. Choose a time that best suits your schedule and minimizes interruptions.
- 2. Find the right place:** Time with God is best spent alone. Find a place where your Heavenly Father can meet with you in private. A bedroom, a porch, or a barn is ideal.
- 3. Use a bible reading plan:** There are times you will want to read your bible as you feel led, but a disciplined approach is best in the long run. Ask your pastor for a bible reading plan or simply google one online. Keep it in your favorite bible, and mark off the chapters as you read them. This will help you receive a systematic, balanced diet from God's word.
- 4. Create a prayer list:** Keep a written record of the prayer requests God brings to your mind. You may want to break down the week and pray for certain things on certain days.
- 5. Focus your prayers on praise, thanksgiving, and submission to God's will.** It is appropriate to ask God to meet your needs, but make sure this is after you have properly praised and thanked Him for who He is and all He has done for you.
- 6. Consider a journal:** Try writing down the verses and insights that God gives you in your time together. It can be a tremendous faith building experience to go back to your journal in a few years and see all the answers to prayer that you recorded. It also preserves a record of the important thoughts you hear in sermons or read in your reading time.
- 7. Be accountable to someone:** Ask a pastor, parent, or trusted friend to keep tabs on your devotional life consistency. Knowing that a concerned person will check up on you is a great motivator not to quit in trying times.

HOW MUCH TIME SHOULD I SPEND ON MY DEVOTIONS?

It may be best not to stress about time. The purpose is to connect with God and enjoy His presence. Set a time frame, based on your maturity level and schedule, and gradually increase it as you grow. Just be sure not to give God your leftovers. He deserves your best.

Note: It usually takes time to clear your mind of clutter and to discipline it to stay focused, so try to choose a devotional time where you will not feel harried and hurried.

PRAYER LIST

Your hand provides a ready-made prayer list. You can "pray through" your fingers and cover a wide variety of needs. Your thumb extended points back at yourself, so pray for yourself first and the people closest to you. Your pointer finger represents those who teach and admonish us, so we are reminded to pray for our preachers and teachers. Our middle finger is tallest, so we are reminded to pray for our rulers and those in highest positions of authority. The finger between our middle finger and pinkie is the weakest reminding us to pray for those who are poor, weak and in need. The smallest finger reminds us to pray for unborn babies and children. Turning our fingers into a fist reminds us to pray for our enemies.

Rev. Floyd Hyatt, a teacher, ordained MPHC minister, and prison chaplain at God's Bible School and College once told his students that in order to make the most of his time with God, he made it a practice upon rising to shower, shave, and dress for the day. This, he felt, honored the Lord and enabled him to better stay awake when he came into the Lord's presence.

Book Recommendations

From Page 2: is because they are lazy and vain. Allowing the dominant voices in our lives to fill our calendars, rather than filling our own calendars with the weightier matters is nothing more than slothfulness. And yes, a busy schedule strokes the ego and makes us feel important. Peterson stresses that we must take control of our lives by making the hard decisions of what matters most, and he insists that for a pastor that duty is 3-fold: 1. To spend time alone with God in prayer and personal bible study. 2. To give ourselves to sermon preparation, and 3. To spend time with our flock listening and ministering to their needs.

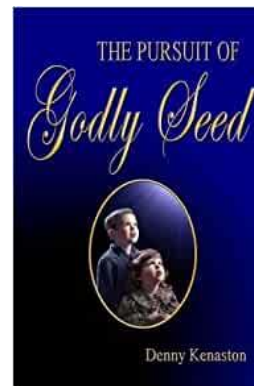
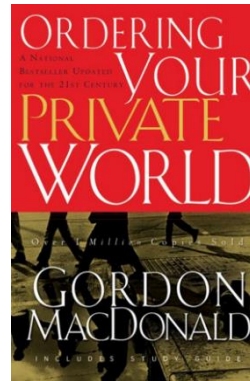
These are powerful words and I believe laymen, as well as pastors, can benefit from Peterson's advice. Time with God is never going to happen, until we decide to make it happen. In a spirit of ruthlessness, we must eliminate the non-essentials in our schedules and safeguard what is sacred. We can never really know Christ unless we meet with Him in private; something that is true of all relationships. Likewise, we can never hope to minister effectively to others without sitting regularly at the feet of Jesus allowing Him to fill us with the wisdom, strength, patience, kindness and faith that we so need. Corporate church attendance is both necessary and right. We should never "forsake the assembling of ourselves together", but regular times of personal meditation and silence to process what God says in His word, to humble ourselves in worship, to renew our consecration vows and bring our needs before Him in prayer is of paramount importance. It is in these times that the quiet voice of God can be heard, and where we enjoy our sweetest times of fellowship. It is little wonder that John Stott, the Anglican pastor and author once wrote that if he had it to do over, he would establish an evangelical, monastic order that focused on celibacy, poverty and peaceable living.

Yes, some may find Stott's statement extreme, but keep in mind there is a price to pay for not maintaining a private life with God. Gordon MacDonald in his book **Ordering Your Private World** warns us that unless we start and maintain a healthy devotional life, we will forfeit several privileges God designed in order to make us fully alive.

- 1.) We will never learn to enjoy the eternal and infinite perspective on reality we were created to have. Our power of judgement will be substantially curtailed, and we will not view our world through a biblical lens.
- 2.) We will lack a vital life-giving friendship with Christ.
- 3.) We will lose the fear of accountability to God.
- 4.) We will lose the awareness of our real size in comparison to the Creator. And conversely, we will forget our specialness and value before Him as sons and daughters.
- 5.) We will have little reserve or resolve for crisis moments such as failure, humiliation, suffering, the death of a loved one, or loneliness.

Such forfeiture should be sobering to our minds and a reminder that however difficult it is to preserve a regular quiet time with God, the benefits are worth the sacrifice. We must not allow meaningless trifles to rob us of the most precious, and priceless experiences life has to offer. Our first and foremost passion must be an ordered life with our relationship with God at the top of our priority list.

In the spirit of accountability may I ask how your relationship with God is going? Can the people observing your life say with confidence that a rooftop, barn loft, closet, or garage is where you meet daily with God? If not, now is the time for you to discipline your desire for God and make time with Him your priority. Christ is waiting to take your relationship with Him to the next level. ~TRF



What have you been reading lately? This accountability question is one we all need to be asked periodically. While the bible is of course our mainstay; we should be subjecting ourselves to the consistent influence of other mature Christians to help us develop mentally and spiritually. The two books below are profitable to that end.

Gordon MacDonald's book **Ordering Your Private World** is one book that should be on every pastor's bookshelf. His call to spiritual order and discipline make this book a must read.

Denny Kenaston's book **The Pursuit of Godly Seed** should be required reading for every mother and father. It is one of the best books we have found about marriage and family living.

Why not put these books on your Christmas wish list? Both would be a gift that keeps on giving.

If you have read a challenging book recently, send your recommendation to the editor for the benefit of the Pilgrim family and friends. Forsee4@juno.com

Notable Quotes

The lack of bible study will cause us to devise our personal opinions which will then develop into our beliefs. Beliefs that affect our relationship with God. We must remember that our personal beliefs cannot establish absolute truth. *Attorney David Gibbs III, quoted by Glen Reiff in his booklet, Jesus the Absolute Truth.*

It hurts when God must PRY things out of our hand.
- Corrie Ten Boom.

Return Address:
1000 Hospital Rd.
Franklin, IN 46131