

# *Sonshine*

# *Magazine*

## *February, 2009*

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16*

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**Editor's Comments:** *God is love! We are told that frequently throughout the Bible and especially in I John 4. It is really nice to be loved and have people fall all over you to tell you how much they think of you. It is really easy to receive that kind of love and give back everything you can muster up. But sometimes people around us are hard to love. That is when we have to work at being loving because God commands us to love them regardless of how they treat us. It is then that we really find out how loving we really are.*

*Glenda and I celebrated our fortieth wedding anniversary last October. If a person wants to find out what true love is all about, they need to be married for at least that long. There were times in my life after I first met Glenda that I couldn't imagine going through life without her. There were also times that I couldn't for the life of me figure out what I was doing staying with her! I think we have all had those times in our lives where we deeply love someone, but for the moment we just don't like them very well.*

*Anyhow, in this February issue of our Sonshine Magazine, we are looking at love and what it really should mean to people. Is love a lifetime commitment or just something that happens to be a catchy phrase for the middle of our wedding vows— "for better or for worse, through sickness and health, till death do we part!" Do we have the right to take vows before God with the person we say we love and, then, break those vows just because "we have fallen out of love" with him or her?*

*I have less than a week until our monthly publishing deadline and it would seem that I have taken on a big subject. So, I had better get to work or look for some opinionated people who might be willing to put their thoughts into words.*

*Glenda and I hope you enjoy the magazine this month. Let us know what you think about it by e-mail or snail mail. If you would like to contribute an article to the magazine, send it to me. We will try to work it into the mix.*

*Love ya' all,*

*Pastor Gary*

***Sonshine***  
**MAGAZINE**

**SONSHINE**  
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Sonshine Magazine is a free publication to anyone who would like a copy. It is our prayer that you are strengthened by the contents and that your faith grows through reading it.

Editor Gary R. Turner  
Proof Reader Glenda Turner

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**On The Cover:** Giving a few candy hearts that say, "I love you!" is not really love according to God's Word. It might qualify as an act of kindness but not as true love.

God speaks repeatedly about love throughout His Word. If you want to know and understand love, turn to God's Word for instruction. In God's Word there are words like smile, friend and love. The difference is that the words in the Bible will change your life forever. The words on the candy that will just make you gain a little more weight.



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Pastor Gary Turner writes an article about love and how it should affect our relationships with others. God is all about love. As a matter of fact, the Bible tells us "God is love." If you are dealing with love issues, read this article to see where there might be problems in your understanding.

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Rob Bernheisel, Pastor of the Macomb, IL Church of God writes this article on Elijah the Prophet and the trouble he ran into when he stopped taking directions from God and began to listen to his own feelings. This combination of events will get each of us in trouble faster than any thing else we can do. Rob's article isn't about love but is certainly something we need to hear in our love for God.

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Shelly Spickler is teaching a class starting this month on Women in Ministry. In this article are several selling points why women should take her class and why they should get involved in ministry for God.

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Glenda Turner writes in her native language, "Missiourian," as she goes back to her childhood and talks about the things she learned about love.

**It Couldn't Be Done .....17**

Pastor Gary shares a conversation with his friend, Bill Kringel, about this poem, *It Couldn't Be Done*. When Bill first read it as a little boy, it meant a lot to him. A framed calligraphy of the poem is now one of Bill's most prized possessions. The message is something we should all possess in our hearts.

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# What Is Love?

By Pastor Gary Turner

Last month I wrote an article entitled, “What Is Truth?” This month I feel it appropriate to take the same “What is” format and look deeper into the issue of love. We are faced with issues of love all the time in our marriages, our families, at work and at church. We struggle with relationships and how we are to treat people around us who might not be treating us like we would want. God loves us and gave His Son to die for all the sins of mankind, regardless if they love Him back or not. That is what is called unconditional love.

Lets look at what God’s Word says about the subject of love. I Corinthians 13 is known as the “love chapter.” It gives us a clear understanding of what love is all about. Paul writes in the first few verses that we can be a lot of things, but, without love, we are nothing. I John 4 tells us that God is love. John 3:16 tells us that God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son to dies for the sins of that world. Obviously, love is very important to God, and He wants us to love Him and the people around us. Jesus commands us in Matthew 22:37-39 to love God with all our heart, soul and mind. And, we are to love our neighbor as much as we love ourselves. Accomplishment and prosperity in both the spiritual and the physical realm don’t amount to anything in God’s eyes unless we are loving toward God and those around us.

In I Corinthians 13:4-8, Paul

gives us several attributes of true love. **Love is patient.** Glenda and I were just talking this morning that in the rat race atmosphere of today’s society, it is real easy to lose patience with those around us. Society is turning us quickly to a self satisfying lifestyle, and when we don’t get something we want at the moment we want it, we can explode over almost any situation.

**Love is kind.** All of us have seen some really ugly people. And I don’t mean the kind of ugly that has a face only a mother could love. I’m talking about inner ugly! They are just down right mean to anyone around them. And they can be particularly mean to the people they don’t like, or that are a little different than they are. God

go ahead, but you’ll end up on the bottom of the pile.” I don’t know what ever happened to that guy in life. I do know that in the job we worked together, I moved on to something better and he got fired. I guess everyone else around him got tired of hearing him boast about had bad he was.

**Love is not proud.** Pride is a difficult thing to teach about. We have to have a good self-esteem or we wouldn’t be able to love our neighbor as ourself. But pride comes into the picture when we get so puffed up in our minds that we cannot relate to others around us. When we begin to think less of others because we are prideful in who we are or in what we have, we need to be careful. Romans 12:3

**Obviously, love is very important to God, and He wants us to love...**

tells us, “Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.” If you are going to be prideful, be proud of the measure of faith that God has given you. Then put that faith to work to help those that God has put around you.

sets up and takes notice when we are kind to other people, even when they don’t deserve it.

**Love does not envy.** Envy is a funny thing. There are times I see someone with something I really would like to have. In the strictest since of the word, that would define envy. But, Paul is talking about wanting something so bad that someone else has that you will do anything to get it. We can’t walk over people to get what we want in life.

**Love is not rude.** All of us know what it is to be rude. We don’t like it when a sales clerk is rude to us, nor do other people like it when we are rude to them. The opposite of being rude is common courtesy to others around us. But what about our actions around our home with those we love most? Are we rude to them just because we are around them all the time? It seems like the more you get to know someone, the more at ease you become around them.

**Love does not boast.** Wow! “But you should see what I have, or how I act or even treat people.” I used to work for a guy that always told me “Nice guys finish last! If you want to be a nice guy,

Think about how you act and

Treat people around you at work. Then think about how you treat your wife and kids. It is those we are the closest to on a daily basis that might be the most rude to. Because I know my wife the most, I find myself saying and doing things around her that sometimes can be pretty rough. In my love for her, I should hold her up as my queen and treat her as a queen, too.

**Love is not self-seeking.** This is one of the hardest attributes of love to keep going for a long time. In our walk with Jesus, we must constantly be trying to kill self. Selfishness is a natural way of life and it creeps up in the strangest of ways. After forty years of marriage, I have found that my love for Glenda has to come before my love for myself. Sometimes that is so hard to do! In whatever we are doing in life or with whoever we are working with, we must always be more concerned for them than for self.

**Love is not easily angered.** These two attributes of love go along together in so many ways. As long as I get my way, I don't ever get angry. We have to understand that anger comes from wanting something from someone around us and not being able to get it. The world deals with that situation by just verbally blowing someone away. Years back I was managing a meat department at a grocery store in Rockford. I had this one guy that worked for me that simply couldn't focus on what he was supposed to do. I liked the kid and was trying help him. I didn't want to fire him even though he was really messing

up on a regular basis. One day the meat truck came late in the day. We unloaded it together, and I told him to put it away. My shift was done. He was working until the store closed at 9:00 PM. Before I left, I told him to make sure that he put it all in the meat cooler. When I came in the next morning, he had started the job, but never finished it. We had spoiled product and a loss of profits.

Everyone in the store knew that I was the minister of a church. But after dealing with this problem for so many times I exploded when I saw what had happened. I didn't cuss at him or call him names, but I was angry. After it all came to a head, one of the ladies that managed the deli, and had been to our

better in relationships with the people around them. But, nothing ever changes, and their work becomes stagnant. I have found that it is impossible to deal with this without saying, "We've talked about this and this and this." In so doing, I have automatically been guilty of keeping a tally of their wrongs.

In a marriage this gets to be all out warfare between two mates. We can go through life saying, "If you would just do this or not do that!" Then your wife retaliates, "You snore to loud!" "But, I don't weigh as much as you." "If you would cook better, I wouldn't I have to eat At McDonald's all the time." We get to the point that we are verbally beating each other up with each other's record of wrongs.

Sometimes, in our effort to show love, we need to look the other way and forget the past!

**Love does not delight in evil.** This has always been one those areas in life that I cannot understand. I see people on some of TV's reality shows that absolutely delight

in being evil. And, they delight in something evil happening to the people around them. These same people are the ones who demonstrate their greed, their anger and their hostility toward life in general. If Christians are supposed to work with the mind of Christ (I Corinthians 2:16), these people have to be working in the mind of the devil. I have seen couples come into my office who hate each other so much that they delight in something bad happening to their spouse. Remember, these same people took a vow before Almighty God to "love,

...continued on page 6

**In whatever we are doing in life or with whoever we are working with, we must always be more concerned for them than for self.**

church, said to me, "That is a side of you I never expected." I let my anger get ahead of my reflection of God's love to others, and of course she was quick to call me on it.

**Love keeps no record of wrongs.** What do you do when you have someone working for you and they constantly mess up the job. When you talk with them they just shake their head and never do things differently.

Sometimes better has nothing to do with the problem. Maybe it is all about doing things in a different way that are beneficial to the company or the church, or just

honor and cherish each other just a year, or so, earlier. In our anger and frustration toward each other, we need to not be happy to see someone hurt.

**Love rejoices with the truth.** There is a whole sermon in this attribute of love. In a relationship between two people, they have to deal with truth on every subject. If one is a liar, the other has no solid ground to stand on. It is like trying to get your footing in quicksand. There is nothing solid in the relationship because the terms of it are constantly changing. What was told to you to be truth, never holds up under scrutiny. When a relationship is built on lies, there is nothing solid to build that relationship on. When a husband and wife, or an employee and employer come to the place that lies are the central point of their dealings with each other, there is no rejoicing in truth or life.

**Love always protects.** I have to be honest. In my forty years of marriage to Glenda, there have been times that I haven't always protected her. I specifically know each of those times, and I am sorry for them. In a relationship with anyone, regardless of how intimate it is or how shallow it is, when we are willing to allow them to be seriously injured (physically, mentally and/or spiritually), we are not dealing with love. I know of situa-

tions where the husband will not be the man that he should be. He is too busy being a "man" with someone else's wife or girlfriend to protect his own wife. The absolute pain and betrayal in those situations is beyond words.

**Love always trusts.** I can't imagine living life with a wife that I could not trust. I can't imagine working in a job with people around me that I cannot trust. This has to be one of the most basic of elements in a loving relationship. It is always a two way street. I have found that I have to be trustworthy in order to expect my wife to be trustworthy. A lack of trust toward anyone sets your gut on edge and your mind spinning. When this happens, all kinds of things can come into your imagination. In issues of trust, they can be real or imagined. The imaginary ones are as damaging as the real.

**Love always hopes.** Hope is such a intricate part of our life. I just preached about how many inter-city youth are living without hope. One twelve year old boy came in hand-cuffs and leg shackles to a group home that Glenda worked in. He had been shot five different times. At one point he said to Glenda, "Why do you care about me? I'll be dead by the time I'm eighteen!" When we lose hope in our mate, the people around us or in life itself, there is no way to

hold on to love.

**Love always perseveres.** I repeatedly hear, "I have fallen out of love with my husband." Love is something that each of us has to work at. Things change. What was tiny and sweet a few years ago might be 280 pounds and bald today. Sorry, Glenda, but you have to love me like I am! Health problems come up as we get older. Sometimes financial difficulties overtake us. But the one thing in life that I have found I can count on is Glenda's love for me. We need to persevere in our love for each other no matter what happens or how things change. That is what is called unconditional love, and that is what God expects from us all.

Finally, **love never fails!** Glenda and I have been through some serious situations in life. Most of them I have brought on myself. But because we decided forty years ago that we would always be there for each other, our love has never failed. I wish that were true for everyone who reads this article. I hurt for those who have watched their love crash and burn for whatever reason. I pray for my grandkids as they search for love in their lives. I lift up each member of our congregation to find and experience God's kind of love in their lives. Love is good. I thank for God for His love for me!



***Love One Another:*** This is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous. Do not be surprised, my brothers, if the world hates you. We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death. Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him. I John 3:11-15

# *New Life Bible Church*

## *“3rd Saturday”*

### *February 21st, 2009*

### *Praise and Prayer*

## *6:30 PM*

*Join us each “3rd Saturday” of the month for an intimate time of praise and prayer to Almighty God.*

New Life Bible Church

## **VALENTINE'S DAY**

Dinner and a Movie



February 14, 2009

6:00PM Dinner

7:00PM Movie

Tickets: \$20/couple

Dinner Includes Lasagna, salad, bread sticks and dessert

Fundraiser for Peru Mission Team Scholarships

## **Valentine's Day Dinner and a Movie**

You are invited to come to the church on Saturday night, February 14th for a lasagna dinner and to see the movie, Fireproof. It is a great opportunity to have a good meal, help those going on the mission trip to Peru with their finances, meet some new friends and get some great advice on how to “fireproof” your marriage!

Dinner will be served at 6:00 PM. The movie will start as close to 7:00 PM as possible. Find a baby setter for the night and make every effort to get here. You will enjoy the meal, the movie and the fellowship!

# Misdirected Focus

By Rob Bernheisel  
Macomb, IL

I Kings 19:1-21

What caused the prophet Elijah to run scared when he was threatened by queen Jezebel? He had just faced down hundreds of false prophets by calling down fire from heaven. Why not just call down fire on this “queen of mean” and get rid of her? What caused this great prophet, and sometimes causes us, to become so afraid or discouraged? Before we try to answer that question I would like to point out God’s reaction to Elijah’s fear. Let’s take a look at what happened. In I Kings 19:3, when Elijah heard this (the queen’s threat), he was afraid and ran for his life, taking his servant with him. When they came to Beersheba in Judah, Elijah left his servant there. Then Elijah walked for a whole day into the desert. He sat down under a tree and asked to die. “I have had enough, LORD,” he prayed. “Let me die. I am no better than my ancestors.” Then he lay down under the tree and slept.

How did God react to Elijah’s fear? God sent an angel with food for Elijah. Elijah ate and then slept again. When he awoke, the angel fed him some more. It appears that Elijah was exhausted emotionally and physically. Elijah had reacted to a stressful situation with fear rather than faith. God reacted with compassion and care. In 2 Timothy

2: 11-13 it states, “*Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us; if we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself.*” I think this shows the reason for God’s reaction. God was faithful, in spite of Elijah’s fear, because of Elijah’s commitment to serve Him.

Elijah then traveled for forty days to Mt Horeb. This was not a forty day trip. Normally it could have been done in less than a week. I think God made it take forty days because Elijah’s mind needed the time to think. He needed to get away from the pressures and distractions to free up his mind to hear God. At the end of the

**He was there because he had stopped taking directions from God and was listening to his own feelings.**

forty days, God gave Elijah a lesson in listening for His voice. God asked Elijah in verse 9, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” Elijah responded, and then God gave Elijah a lesson in hearing God’s voice. Again, God asked Elijah the same question. “What are you doing here, Elijah?” Why did God ask the same question? I think it is because Elijah did not get the answer right the first time.

I think we can learn a critical lesson if we examine Elijah’s history. In I Kings 17:2-5 it states, “*Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah: ‘Leave here, turn east-*

*ward and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan. You will drink from the brook, and I have ordered the ravens to feed you there.’*” So he did what the LORD had told him. In verses 8-9 it says, “*Then the word of the LORD came to him: ‘Go at once to Zarephath of Sidon and stay there. I have commanded a widow in that place to supply you with food.’*” So he went to Zarephath. Then also consider I Kings 18:1,2; “*After a long time, in the third year, the word of the LORD came to Elijah: ‘Go and present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the land.’*” So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab.

Compare the previous three text with I Kings 19:1-3 Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, “May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them.” This time we see Elijah afraid and running for his life.

In each of the first three situations, Elijah traveled where and when God told him to travel. However, when Jezebel threatened him he did not wait to hear from God; he simply ran in fear. To return to the question, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” Elijah responded both times that he had been zealous for God, Israel had rejected God, and Elijah was the only one that was faithful.

But **that was not why he was there.** He was there because he

had stopped taking directions from God and was listening to his own feelings. He had stopped focusing on God and focused on the reactions of people. His focus was misdirected. He lost his vision. Just as Peter sank in the waves when he took his eyes off Jesus, so Elijah sank in fear when he took his eyes off God.

God told Elijah, "**Go back the way you came.**" I doubt this was a geographical direction as much as a spiritual direction. Elijah needed to return to getting his direction from God. Elijah had lost his way. The solution was not just a simple matter of getting directions from God. Elijah needed to have his mind and

thoughts renewed so that he could be receptive to God's voice.

At this point Elijah was ready to take directions. He no longer focused on Jezebel or the people. He remembered that God was much more powerful and had taken care of him through droughts, opposition, and threats.

So what about us? Can we trust God? Will He take care of us like He did Elijah? Are we ready to take direction? Why had Elijah panicked in the first place? I think it was because it caught him by surprise. God knew what was going to happen in every situation before it happened, and He has revealed it to Elijah. When Jezebel threatened, Elijah did not know

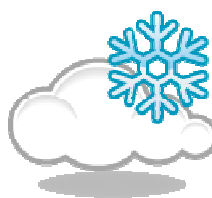
that God had a plan in the works for this, too.

I am sorry to say that many times I have seen Christians turn to their own devices when God seemed missing. The more difficult things become, the more we begin to rely on our own resources and wisdom. We begin to think, "Religion is fine but this is serious stuff happening to me!" God is with us in our weaknesses. He is with us even when we do not feel we are the "man of God." He is with us when we are afraid and when we are depressed. So what should we do when the spirit of Jezebel threatens? Keep your focus on God. Isaiah 26:3 says, "*You, LORD, give true peace to those who depend on you, because they trust you.*"

## How do I know when my subscription is ending?

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## Senior Citizen's Luncheon

Wow! We were "froze out" on our January Senior Citizen Luncheon. The day it was planned was the coldest day of the entire winter (so far). We canceled our time together because we thought it would be safer for all involved. We are sorry for any inconvenience this caused for anyone.

Watch for the corned beef and cabbage luncheon coming on March 19th, 2009.



Editor's Note: Beth is writing this e-mail to New Life Bible Church in Winnebago, IL. In the second paragraph, she refers to New Life Church in Colorado Springs, CO. Beth is the blond in the center of the picture at the left.

Dear New Life Church,

Greetings! I hope and pray that each and every one of you is catching up on rest after the wonderful holiday season! I so appreciate your faithful prayers and support for me throughout this past year as I was in China and a part of 24/7 leadership academy. You are truly a blessing and encouragement in my life!

As you probably know, last year was a year of new adventures, challenges, and experiences. For 2 years, I committed to serving the 24/7 Leadership Academy, a college ministry of New Life Church. The commitment consisted of rigorous training in all these areas: physically, mentally, socially and spiritually. Through out the year, we did several hikes in the breathtaking Rocky Mountains, took several classes from extremely talented leaders from New Life Church and the surrounding area and were involved with the local college and high school ministries. It was a beautiful time there. God broke, shaped and transformed my life. This year, I am taking on a leadership role as associate staff with the new leadership academy called DLA, Desperation Leadership Academy. My role this year is devoted to training, equipping, and growing the first and second year students. I know it will be an absolute joy to watch and hear the amazing things God is going to do in and around these students throughout this next year. God is rising up leaders to influence this current generation with the power and life through the Holy Spirit, and I'm excited to be a part of his kingdom work!

Last year, through 24/7 and YWAM I traveled to the country of China. When we were there, we were able to host and attend a multicultural leadership development camp. The Chinese students that attended this camp were from the top two universities in China. Our team was also able to minister to students of all ages all through out the country of China believers in China. After prayerful consideration, our leadership team in C has decided to travel to Mexico from May 16-June 6, 2009. We believe that Mexico is a place where we will truly be able to put feet to our own prayers, serving those in need and bringing a message of compassion and hope. Mexico is a predominantly Catholic nation, with only 10 percent of the population professing to be Christians. Mexico is an extremely wealthy nation, with rich history, bountiful natural resources, and beautiful parks and ancient ruins but because of corruption in the government, Mexico has been unsuccessful in moving forward. But even through all the corruption God is still moving mightily through out the nation of Mexico.



During our four week trip, we desire to maximize our impact and make the most of our limited time there. Upon arrival, our group of approximately 80 individuals will split into eight separate teams to accomplish this goal. We are currently planning 3 Desperation Nights to be held in 3 strategic cities: Mexico City, Iguala, and Campeche. The Desperation Nights will be held on weekends allowing each of the teams during the week to serve the believers in southern Mexico in any way possible whether through outreach, helping the community or simply encouraging the body of believers in the area. Though I won't know which team I will be leading until several weeks before the trip, I am confident that God will use me in whatever capacity He desires. I fully anticipate that our presence in Mexico will have a significant, sustained impact on the spiritual climate of the country and lives of the many individuals we come in contact with will be changed for eternity.

As I prepare to embark on what God has called me to, I desperately pursue your prayer for my safety, the unity

of the team going, and the people of Mexico. Please pray that God uses us in any way He desires, that He opens doors for us to have a measurable impact, and that He prepares the hearts of the Mexico people to receive what He has for them. During this time, our team is not only praying, but is actively pursuing fundraising opportunities to pay for our travel expenses. Many of us are pursuing extra jobs, additional hours at work, and attempting to save. Also, we are participating in team fundraisers, such as t-shirt sales, valet parking, etc. Despite these efforts, I still need significant financial assistance for Mexico and this year.

Once again, thank you for your constant prayers and encouragement, and may God continue to work powerfully in your life!

In His Hands,

Beth Diehl



## Ying Tao Pepsi

Taken from Pastor Tim Spickler's Blog at [timspickler.com](http://timspickler.com)

Shelly and I like to head to Freeport, IL once and awhile to the China Buffet. I have to admit that I thought I hated Chinese food until Shelly made me try it with her. Now... I LOVE IT! Crab Rangoon, Pepper Chicken, and even that dog (or cat) on a stick! (I know it's not dog or cat, but I cannot figure out what it is... but I like it!) We head over there a couple times a month to indulge ourselves with the very pleasant food. There is a young lady that has always been our "hostess". When she sees us coming in the door and then seats us, she always asks, "Cherry Pepsi?". The first time she said that to us I thought "man, we come here too often!" Then a funny thing happened... One day we had our fortune cookie (no I don't believe them, so don't

email me), and it had a "learn Chinese word" on the paper in the cookie. It was the word "Cherry." I thought that was funny so, the next time we went to China Buffet I said "Ying Tao Pepsi" to the hostess. She gave me a weird look and walked away. Shelly and I laughed and enjoyed our meal.

So what is all that about? Nothing really... it just is funny to me, and then I found a verse today that says, "Nehemiah said, 'Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is sacred to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.'" Nehemiah 8:10 (NIV)

Nehemiah was telling the people about the Law, and the people were weeping because of the overwhelming conviction they felt. That was fine, but Nehemiah wanted them to rejoice because they had found what is right! Where are you today? Are you weeping over sin or feeling held back because of past sin? Today, I tell you rejoice! Rejoice that those sins are forgiven! Rejoice because

of the good news of Jesus Christ! Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength! Go and enjoy some choice food (crab rangoon & "dog-on-a-stick" )and a sweet drink (ying tao Pepsi- or Cherry Pepsi) and thank God for His goodness!

**Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.**

**I John 3:18-20**

**Peru Missions Trips, 2009**  
**July 2nd-11th & July 16th-25th**  
**Someone's life is about to change!**



***Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.” Mark 16:15***

# *Peru Mission Dinner Fundraiser*

## *Saturday, March 28th*

Mark your calendars  
now so you can  
attend!

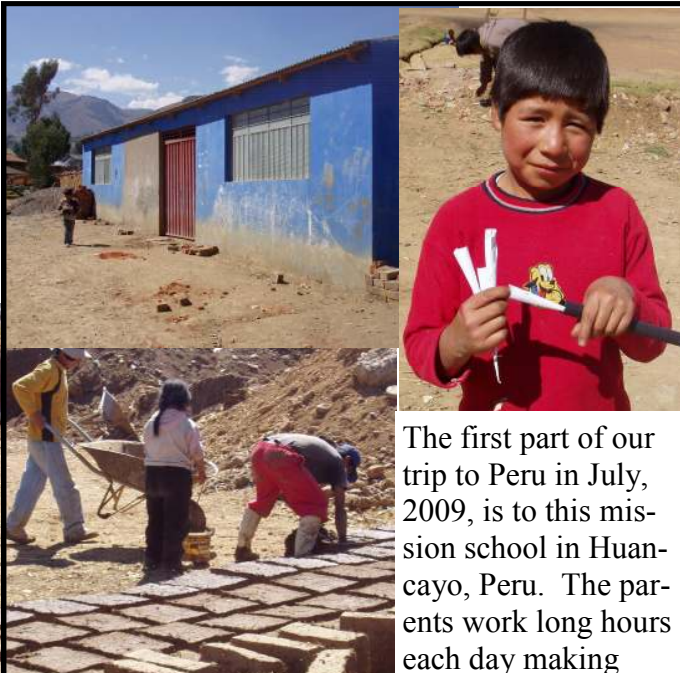
### *6:00 PM*

*at New Life Bible Church*

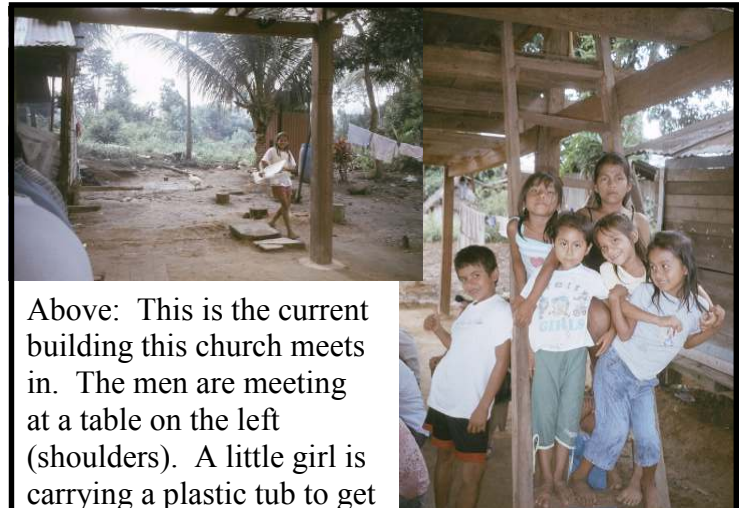
*Proceeds will go to help put a  
roof on a new church building  
in Shiringamazu, Peru*



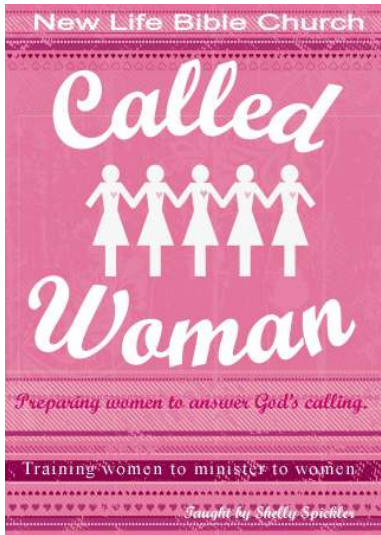
*Pastor Huan, right, stands with a member of the congregation of a local church in Shiringamazu. The foundation to the church was built some-time before we got there in June, 2008. They are currently framing in the building. We want to help put the roof on when we go back in July, 2009. This dinner will help raise funds to put metal panels on the roof. If you would like to give to this building project, please send funds (marked Peru Roof) to New Life Bible Church, PO Box 7, Winnebago, IL 61088*



The first part of our trip to Peru in July, 2009, is to this mission school in Huan-cayo, Peru. The parents work long hours each day making bricks (bottom left), and their kids run the streets. This school teaches the kids like the boy (top right). One lady is working with this school by herself. She fills in with mission teams that come in and help for a week or two at a time. This is a fairly easy journey and very safe. Will you help?



Above: This is the current building this church meets in. The men are meeting at a table on the left (shoulders). A little girl is carrying a plastic tub to get water from a well near by. (Operation Christmas Child suggests we send plastic shoe boxes for this purpose) Right: These are some of the kids that are a part of this local church. They were hanging around while their parents met with us. Notice the stairs, the little building to the right and the openness of the floor boards above. A family lived above this meeting area. The little building to the right is their kitchen with a wood burning stove in it. The floor boards above were so far apart that I could look up and see directly into their living space above us.



For several months, I have had the vision to create and teach a class which teaches women to minister to women. Actually, I think it started around May of last year. I went on a mission trip to the Dominican with a group of women from our church. One of the comments that I heard afterward was, "I wish we would have had some training about how to minister." I thought they did an amazing job and that the Holy Spirit truly used them as they ministered, but they longed for confidence in ministry.

I started praying and envisioning a training of some sort where women could gain confidence and knowledge about how to minister to other women. In addition to praying, I started studying and researching resources. God has been faithful and has given me an outline for the class and an amazing amount of information to share with women who are called to minister to other women. I am so excited about the class!!

It was scheduled to start January 12th at Rock River Christian College in Beloit, WI, but we didn't meet the minimum number of students so it was cancelled. I really think that was of God, also. Now we can offer it here at the church, and I can have a practice run before teaching it at the college level.

Beginning on Monday, February 2, 2009, New Life Bible Church will be offering this Women's Ministry Training class to prepare Christian women to minister to other women. The sixteen week class will meet every Monday from 6:30 to 8:30PM.

The objectives of this class are to

- Discover the biblical and practical reasons for women to minister to women
- Gain a knowledge of various women of the Bible and how their stories can be used to minister to women of today
- Understand major issues women face and how to help using spiritual gifts, biblical truths, church ministries, community agencies, and written resources
- Gain confidence to effectively minister to women in various life situations, settings, and stages
- Learn how God has called and equipped each Christian woman to minister to other women in her life
- Discover how women's ministry training can help Christian women minister in their local church, neighborhood, community, and beyond
- Gain administrative skills for women's ministry in the local church

The Bible and two additional books will be needed for this class -- *Women Helping Women* by Elyse Fitzpatrick and Carol Cornish and *Shepherding a Woman's Heart* by Beverly Hislop. Both of these books can be purchased at many online Christian bookstores.

I have been working in Women's Ministry for over fourteen years and am excited to share ideas with other women in ministry. This class will benefit all Christian women, both those in leadership in a local church and those who haven't found their ministry yet. My desire is to prepare all women to minister to the women around them, wherever that may be, not just in the church building!

The class is free. All women who take the course will receive a certificate in Women's Ministry upon completion of the course. In conjunction with Rock River Christian College of Beloit, WI, this class can be taken for credit as an independent study. For more information or to register for the class, please contact Shelly at [shelly@winnewlife.com](mailto:shelly@winnewlife.com).

# Learning about Love

By Glenda Turner

The older I get the more I realize that many important lessons in life are learned at a very young age. As I was thinking about teaching a Valentine's Day oriented lesson to my four and five year old class at church, I realized how much I learned from those around me :

*I learned about consistent, supportive love from my best friend—my dog, Peggy.*

My folks got me a dog before I was even born! Peggy was a small dog with a big heart. She was always there and always loving. She kissed away my tears and even babysat me. One day when I decided to go into the woods by myself, ignoring my parents' orders, she ran to the backdoor and barked and barked until mom came to see what was wrong. At the time, I felt like Peggy squealed on me! Later, I realized that she was taking care of me. Peggy would have given her life for me. In fact, at times I feared that she would. Peggy was a little warrior and killed off those big, bad snakes that terrified me. (I should add that my dad was an early version of a conservationist. He tried to teach me and Peggy to live in peace with those snakes, mostly harmless but large black snakes that would keep the mice and rats down around the place.) I loved Peggy when she jumped in to defend me. From Peggy, I learned that love is there for you in good times and bad, non-conditional. When you love some-

body, throw your life into it.

*I learned about non-verbal love from my dad, who we called Pappy Dad.*

Pappy Dad was a title given him by younger Marines that he served with in WWII. Dad was the strong silent type (to say the least!) but he acted out his love. Every evening when Pappy Dad was home and the weather allowed, he would say, "Let's go for a walk." As we'd walk, he'd show me plants, and animal tracks, and tell me stories. He never said he loved me during those times, but I knew it!

Pappy-Dad also taught me that love meant thinking of what the other person would like and also that loving actions could have consequences on the rest of the world. On Father's Day when I was four, he said, "It's Father's Day, so as your father, I bought you a present." "Wow!" I thought. "So that's what Father's Day is all about! Cool!" Then he added, "100 feet of rope" and I was uncomfortably not excited anymore. However, he proceeded to show me how to make a swing—just for me. He said, "I think you seem to be the kind of girl who would like to swing." As I watched in fascination, he threw the rope over an impossibly high branch and pulled out a board seat he had prepared. Mom had some questions. First, he showed her how he'd sanded the board to remove any possible splinters. Then she asked a question that made me think—knowing my dad. "What about the branch? Won't it cut into it?" Dad would not do something to damage a healthy tree. But he had it all

thought out. He had a plan to prevent that. And I learned that love not only gives but thinks about the consequences to the world. Love does not mean shutting off your brain and jumping in.

Peggy added to this lesson. Peggy had one hang up. She loved small animals of all kinds. Well, except snakes. Dad said that it was because she'd always wanted babies of her own but couldn't have them. Peggy would bring home small animals, usually baby bunnies but sometimes a mouse or a mole. The usual pattern was that Peggy would carefully carry a little rabbit home in her mouth. She always took it to the front door and then to the front yard. She would make a fence with her front paws and put the animal down. Then, she'd keep it there for hours if she could. Pappy Dad would come and get me and say, "Rescue that rabbit. Distract Peggy." I'd go up and talk to her and pet her, and the animal would "run away home to its momma," in Pappy Dad's language. But one dreadful day, Dad and I were in the house and heard this terrible growling noise—like a bear! We went out outside and found Peggy holding a shrew in her paws. Do you know about shrews? They're smaller than mice, darker furred, and have a short tail and a wide mean streak. This shrew was biting her on the nose and paws over and over again. He was making this terrible loud noise. I thought she had a devil mouse! That day, Dad rescued Peggy and killed the shrew. From watching Peggy with small animals, I learned that people love unwisely and may do stupid, even ...continued on page 16

dangerous, things when they love the wrong person. But, I also learned to rescue the rabbits and clean up Peggy's wounds after the shrew tore her up.

*My Grandpa taught me love by giving up his time to spend it with me.*

Grandpa's lesson on love was simple—always have time for the child and keep mints in your pocket. Yes, the mints sometimes had lint on them (it was a time before individually wrapped candies), but I didn't care. Grandpa would spend time with me. We'd swing on the porch swing or take a walk—just me and him. By the time I was six, he'd died. But I have a picture of him on my refrigerator to this day.

*I learned love meant putting people over things from my Mom.*

Mom was always giving things away. Say you liked something—and it was yours. I had one older cousin who was constantly leaving our house with valuables. One day, he drove off with an family antique that all of us four girls loved. My sister had enough and challenged mom. She replied, "It's just a thing. And he liked it." When he came back the next visit and bragged about how much he'd sold it for, my sister blew up! Mom didn't flinch. "He's had a rough life. Not like you girls." She told us how this cousin had had polio as a child and almost died. We found out that mom had lived with her sister's family through that period so she could help out. Mom had spent hours

massaging and exercising the cousin's leg so he could walk again. At that point, I got really mad! She did all of that for him, and he would do this to her? Then she added that she had seen just how cruel his dad was to the whole family. She added, "His life has not been like you girls' life. This doesn't matter." Mom loved people—not things.

*I learned about love from watching my three older sisters interact with each as I was growing up.*

I've left my three sisters to last. The three of them are close to the same age while I am much younger. So while the three of them would often disagree and become "two against one" (with the "one" being a different sister every time), they made my life almost perfect. But I learned about love watching the three of them interact. They would disagree, even fight or argue. But they did not hold a grudge, and they did not make one sister the permanent bad guy. They would stand up for each other at odd times. They went out of

their way to care for their sisters, especially for me. Love was permanent; arguments would come and go but love remained.

After saying all of this, I should add that my family life was not perfect. After my three sisters were old enough to leave the house, I realized how bad the relationship between my mom and my dad really was. Thankfully, as their marriage deteriorated I learned that God had a better plan. One of my sisters led me to Christ and gave me a Bible. As I read God's Word, I learned about love—true love. Maybe I should say I learned more about love for I also learned that my early lessons about love were also true. I Corinthians teaches the same lessons I learned so early in life. And wraps up the teachings about love with the greatest truth—"Love never fails." And that is my prayer for you during this month where we think about Valentines. May you know, and rejoice in, and share the awesome truth that God's love never fails!

## Want to know more about God?

Mid-week Bible Study

Wednesday morning— 10:00 AM @

New Life Bible Church

Wednesday evening— 6:00 PM @ US Bank

basement, downtown Pecatonica. Bring a dish to pass. We will eat at 6:00 PM for those who would like to eat with the group.

Bible study is 6:30 to 7:30 PM.

## *It Couldn't Be Done*

*Somebody said it couldn't be done,  
but he with a chuckle replied,  
that "maybe it couldn't" but he would be one  
who wouldn't say so until he had tried.  
So he buckled right in with a trace of a grin  
on his face. If he worried he hid it.  
He started to sing as he tackled the thing  
that couldn't be done, and he did it.*

*Somebody scoffed: "Oh, you'll never do that;  
At least no one ever has done it."  
But he took off his coat and took off his hat,  
and the first thing we knew he had begun it.  
With a lift of his chin and a bit of a grin,  
Without any doubting and quiddit,  
he started to sing as he tackled the thing  
that couldn't be done, and he did it.*

*There are thousands to tell you it cannot  
be done. There are thousands to  
prophecy failure. There are thousands  
to point  
out to you one by one,  
the dangers that wait to assail you.  
But just buckle in with a bit of a grin,  
just take off your coat and go to it.  
Just start to sing as you tackle the thing  
that "couldn't be done," and you'll do it!*

## **The Poem!**

A few years ago, a friend gave me a copy of the poem to the left. There is a bit of a story behind it. We were talking on the telephone the other day, and subject of the poem came up.

First of all, the author is unknown to my friend and to myself. I don't want anyone to think that I wrote it, or Bill, my friend. Maybe with a little finger work on the Internet one of us could come up with the author, but up until now that hasn't happened. Truthfully, I doubt that it will.

Bill told me that he found the poem when he was a small boy. It stuck in his head for some reason, and he went back and wrote it down on a piece of paper. He carried it in his pocket for a long time until he could barely read it any longer. He put it away and saved it. Maybe at that point he recopied it, maybe he didn't— I can't remember what he told me. What he did do was to put it into practice as he grew into a man.

Bill went on to say that he kept the poem for years in a safe place. Then one day he hired a secretary who could do fancy printing very well and she made a nice "calligraphy" of it. He had it framed, and it hung into his office until he retired. Bill used it as a object lesson one day when he taught a class at the church. That is when I copied it.

I made copies on the computer. Both Pastor Tim and I have it framed and hanging in our offices. The poem is really good advice when someone tells you, "That can't be done."

# From The Internet



Last April in Washington DC, a young man in blue jeans emerged from the metro and positioned himself against a wall beside a trash basket. He removed a violin from a small case, threw in a few dollars and pocket change as seed money, and began to play.

Over the next 45 minutes, more than a 1,000 people passed by. Six minutes elapsed before anyone stopped to listen. A crowd never gathered. In fact, only seven people stopped to listen for a minute or more. When he was finished, the young man collected the few extra dollars from his violin case and left.

What's so unusual about this? Nothing apparently. However, the violinist was no ordinary street performer. It was Joshua Bell, one of the finest classical musicians in the world, playing some of the most elegant music ever written, on one of the most valuable violins ever created, a \$3.5 million Stadivarius made in 1710.

He was participating in an experiment on "perception and priorities" arranged by *The Washington Post*.

Three days before, Bell had sold out Boston's Symphony Hall, where the cheap seats went for \$100 each. Two weeks later, he played to a standing-room-only audience at the Music Center at Stathmore, in North Bethesda.

Just how good is Joshua Bell? One prominent music magazine says his playing "does nothing less than tell human beings why they bother to live."

Despite his genius, not 1% of more than a thousand passers-by stopped to listen for even one minute. Some folks, of course, will attribute this to the general public's abysmal taste in music. But I think something more was going on here. And it has nothing to do with musical tastes or even the hectic pace of modern life.

After all, Hellen Keller noticed much the same thing more than 70 years ago—and she was deaf and blind. Writing in the *Atlantic Monthly* in 1933, she said, "Recently I was visited by a very good friend who had just returned from a long walk in the woods, and I asked her what she had observed. 'Nothing in particular,' she replied. I might have been incredulous had I not been accustomed to such responses, for long ago I became convinced that the seeing see little."

"How was it possible," I asked myself, "to walk for an hour through the woods and see nothing of note? I, who cannot see, find hundreds of things to interest me through mere touch. I feel the delicate symmetry of a leaf. I pass my hands lovingly about the smooth skin of a birch, or the rough, shaggy bark of a pine. In spring I touch the branches of trees hopefully in search of a bud... I feel the delightful, velvety texture of a flower... I am delighted to have the cool waters of a brook rush through my open

fingers. To me a lush carpet of pine needles or spongy grass is more welcome than the most luxurious Persian rug."

"If I can get so much pleasure from mere touch, how much more beauty must be revealed by sight. Yet, those who have eyes apparently see little. The panorama of color and action, which fills the world, is taken for granted. It is human, perhaps, to appreciate little of what we have and to long for that which we have not, but it is a great pity that in the world of light the gift of sight is used only as a mere convenience rather than a means of adding fullness to life."

I won't comment further on these two stories. The speak volumes by themselves. However, I will add on brief quote for John Horgan, author of *Rational Mysticism*: "the best spiritual advice is the simplest: Pay attention. See! Or rather cherish. Cherish what you have before its gone."—Alexander Green

...Submitted by Bill Kringel,  
Ormond Beach, FL

## This is a picture of what sorry is...



...Submitted by Dennis Baldwin,  
Front Royal, VA



The above pictures were from two different e-mails about graphic designers. One changed the pictures of animals and the other changed the picture of a baby. One thing we can learn from this is that in this day of digital photography and computers, you can't always believe every picture you see! Thanks to Mary Ann Kringel of Ormond Beach, FL for sending the baby pictures and Glenda Turner of Winnebago, IL for sending the pictures of the animals.

*There is no fear in love.  
But perfect love drives out  
fear, because fear has to  
do with punishment. The  
one who fears is not made  
perfect in love. I John 4:18*



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