



*Sonshine*

*March, 2009*

**FREE!**

**PLEASE TAKE A MAGAZINE  
WITH YOU TO READ.**

**Editor's Comments:** *The picture on the front of this magazine is a beautiful thing. At first light we see the ice shimmering in the sunlight, and the beauty of God's creation shines all around. But this picture doesn't truly reveal what else might be just outside the click of the camera lens. An ice storm can bring devastation to an area that can last for years. What seems beautiful at first sight, might bring devastation and carnage along with it.*

*I am going to go out on a limb here and confess something from my past. I have already shared this with my wife and my congregation. It will be nothing many of them haven't already heard. But it is such a great example of something so beautiful where the end results would have only been disaster and carnage. If this offends you, I apologize for sharing it now. I think you will see my point by the end of these comments.*

*Years ago, after Glenda and I came back from overseas, I was promoted to the managers position at a new grocery store in another city. In the first months, Glenda and the kids were back in Rockford. I had already moved to get the new building set up as a grocery store and opened up before Christmas. One weekend I went back to Rockford to spend time with my family. When I came back, the company had hired this gorgeous blond. Married or not, I was attracted to her. It wasn't very long after we opened the store that we were working the same hours. We were closing the store at night, doing the bookwork after everyone else had left and leaving the building together. She would get in her car, I in mine, and we would drive to our separate homes. The problem was, after a short time of this, she started inviting me to come over to her house. Naïve as I was, I simply said, "I'm married." She replied, "I know. So what?"*

*Needless to say, I stayed loyal to Glenda, but went home and took a lot of cold showers. Listen to me! Like the picture on the front of this magazine, she looooked goooooood! But, I was wise enough to see collateral damage that could come from what I was seeing and hearing. The point of this month's magazine is to learn how to discern what is literally looming outside of what we see as a beautiful thing. We want to share how to read the entire situation and how to judge that it is godly or not godly?*

*As always, Glenda and I hope you enjoy the magazine. 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**  
March, 2009  
Volume 4—Issue No. 3

**Sonshine Magazine**

is published by  
New Life Bible Church,  
Winnebago, IL 61088  
Telephone (815) 335-1405  
Fax (815) 239-9335

E-mail: [Pastorgary@winnewlife.com](mailto:Pastorgary@winnewlife.com)  
Web Site: [www.winnewlife.com](http://www.winnewlife.com)

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

Thanks to all the crew at Minuteman Press in Loves Park, IL for printing and folding this publication.

Published by  
New Life Bible Church  
2285 Hoisington Road  
PO Box 7  
Winnebago, IL 61088

**On The Cover:** March is a complicated month in the realm of daily weather. The tree on the cover of this magazine is covered with ice. I remember a time when I was in high school when an ice storm hit in March. It was too warm to produce snow and too cold for the storm to produce rain. When the storm was over, many of the trees in the area looked like the one on the cover. But, around the beauty was also devastation. We had a lot of damage to the trees on our property. It took hard work, time and money to clean up the mess.

Sometimes in life, what seems to be a beautiful thing ends up leaving a lot of damage. I repeat from the editorial page—we have to be able to discern what is going to end up beautiful and what is beautiful or attractive now, but is going to end up ugly! Those decisions will make all the difference in how we live life.



**In this issue:**

**What Is Righteousness?.....4**

Pastor Gary Turner continues his “What Is” series of articles with this month’s article about righteousness. We all struggle with living life in a right way that is always pleasing to God. In this article we read that it is not at all about our righteousness but about the righteousness of Jesus!

**Two Things, Two Things Only.....6**

Francis Fragipane writes about what we need to serve the Lord. He explains that there are only two things we need to go after to serve the Lord as He expects. Thanks to his organization for allowing us to reprint this article.

**Fine Sounding Arguments.....8**

Pastor Tim Spickler writes about the words that come at us each day. Some words are trying to pull us toward God, while others are pulling us away from Him. We need to listen carefully and not react to just everything that come in our ears.

**Book Review Plus.....11**

Glenda Turner writes about the new New Life Bible Church library. It is being put together for the reading enjoyment of the congregation by Susan Knoup. Glenda encourages each of us to look into this free reading material.

**Ashley’s Car.....14**

Pastor Tim Spickler continues the theme of being aware what you are getting into before you react or decide to follow what is coming at you. Life takes incredible discernment on our part to not always be involved in the wrong things.

**How Books Are Like Ice:**

**Danger and Beauty.....16**

While Glenda was on a roll about the quality of the books in the library, she noticed something about a book she read. Check out this article and see what she is proposing we do.

**Remember to Pray for Jorge.....5**

**Can I Trust God?.....9**

**Down-To-Earth Problems.....17**

**From The Internet.....18**

# What Is Righteousness?

By Pastor Gary Turner

This month we are continuing our “What is” format and looking at “What is Righteousness?” Righteous living is a difficult thing for all of us. And yet, we are told, commanded, in Matthew 6:33 to seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness.

In my own life, I find that I can define righteousness easier than I can live it. Righteousness is simply living right with God. But, when it comes time for me to do that, I am always coming up short of what God expects of me. I guess the natural flow of this article would be to lay out what God expects from all of us. I am not sure I can do that within the confines of the pages assigned to me.

I’ve already pointed out that we are expected to seek first the kingdom and his righteousness (Matthew 6:33). When we read the entire text, we see that expectation from God is because He wants to supply our basic needs. In reading this, I believe it is one of the basics that we need to incorporate into our daily living. When I measure what I am about to say or do against God’s kingdom way of doing things and His righteousness, it defines certain choices in my life.

In the same manner, Peter writes in I Peter 1:15 & 16, “*But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all that you do; for it is written, ‘Be Holy, because I am*

*holy.’*” Righteousness and holiness might seem like the same thing. I don’t think they are. I know many people who do righteous acts that have nothing to do with God. They are good people who have a super moral base and are compassionate and generous in every way. The problem is that while it is their nature, and God’s nature, they don’t see God in any of it. Some of them don’t even believe in God. Holiness is taking those deeds and actions and putting them into the perspective of what you are doing as a reflection of God’s goodness and compassion. It is doing the very same deeds as a

that point they said, “He is perfect.” But, even then, I didn’t measure up to perfection because I was born into sin. I have spent a lifetime trying to measure up to everyone’s idea of perfection for me but have never been able to accomplish it, especially when measured against God’s perfection.

So let’s back up and sum up! Jesus tells us to seek God’s righteousness and to be perfect as God is perfect. Peter tells us to be holy as God is holy. They all seem to tie together into what could be called righteousness, but, individually or together, they are nearly impossible for us to do. How do

we accomplish what seems to be an impossible expectation by God? We don’t— Jesus does!

It all has to do with our identity in Christ Jesus. That begins when we ask Jesus to be our Lord and Savior. In the process of doing so, we must confess our sins and seek forgiveness.

Paul tells us in Acts 2:38, “*Repent and be baptized, everyone of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*” In the physical realm we might look the same, and even sound the same, once we ask Jesus to be our Lord and Savior. But, in the spiritual realm, something has happened. We don’t look the same, nor sound the same to God. We now are one of His children, and we are covered in the blood of Jesus Christ. When God looks at us, He sees the righteousness of Jesus. When God looks at us, He sees the holiness of Jesus. And, when God looks at us, He sees the perfection

**But seek first his kingdom  
and his righteousness and  
all these things will be  
given to you as well.  
Matthew 6:33**

service to Almighty God— not just something that any good citizen would do. Holiness is getting a handle on the spiritual realm of Almighty God. It is dealing with things in the physical realm that we live in because we worship a God that is spirit and truth (John 4:24).

Here comes an even more difficult part of this. Jesus says in Matthew 5:48, “*Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*” About the closest I have ever come to being perfect was within a few seconds after I was born. It was when my mom and dad looked at me and saw that I had ten toes and ten fingers. At

of Jesus in each one of us. Jesus said in his final prayer in John 17:23 (KJV), "I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me." It is through our faithful con-

*viously hidden, manifesting itself as] our Righteousness [thus making us upright and putting us in right standing with God], and our Consecration [making us pure and holy], and our Redemption [providing our ransom from eternal penalty for sin]."*

fession of Jesus Christ as Lord that we are made perfect.

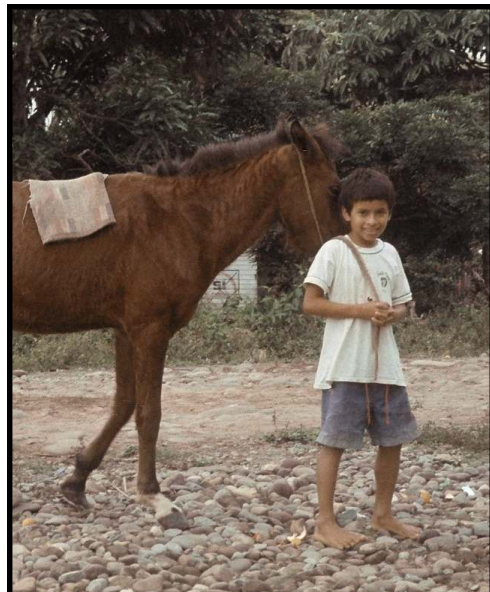
As followers of Jesus, or Christians, we

may struggle in our effort to serve God with righteousness and holiness and perfection. But, because of God's grace and our faith in the shed blood of Jesus, God sees us through the righteousness, holiness and perfection of Jesus. I Corinthians 1:30 reads in the Amplified Bible, "*But it is from Him that you have your life in Christ Jesus. Whom God made our Wisdom from God, [revealed to us a knowledge of the divine plan of salvation pre-*

**We might think this Christian walk that we are expected to follow is too difficult for us to do. But it is really not!**

We might think this Christian walk that we are expected to follow is too difficult for us to

do. But it is really not! God in His wisdom has made everything right through the death of His Son on the cross. All we have to do is believe that and have faith that God loves us in everyway that He says He does. When we trust that, no amount storm or heavy ice coming through our life will destroy or break us down. We can stand tall and firm in the love that God has for each of us.



## **Pray For Jorge**

I introduced Jorge to you a few months ago after we returned home from Peru. He is an interesting little boy. I found myself seeing him growing up and becoming a pastor for the jungle people that he is a part of. Last June, I laid hands on him and prayed for him. I prayed for his safety and health as a boy growing up around very little medical services. I prayed for his continued interest in spiritual things and for him to develop as a spiritual leader for his people.

I have a picture of him in a couple of different places within our church. One is to remind our people to pray for him, and the other is in my office to remind me to pray for him. Again, I ask you, the people across the United States and Canada who receive this magazine to pray for this little boy who is 10 or 11 years old. Pray for his present safety and health and his future needs. Remember, James wrote in James 5:16, "The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." Let's continue to join our prayers together for the sake of this boy and his family.

**Therefore if any person is [ingrafted] in Christ (the Messiah) he is a new creation (a new creature altogether); the old [previous mortal and spiritual condition] has passed away. Behold, the fresh and new has come!  
II Corinthians 5:17 (Amplified)**

# "Two Things, Two Things Only"

by Francis Frangipane

There are so many things to occupy our minds: so many books, so many examples, so many good teachings that deserve our attention, that say, "Here is a truth." But, as I have been serving the Lord these past years, He has led me to seek for two things and two things only: to know the heart of God in Christ and to know my own heart in Christ's light.

## Knowing the Heart of God

I have been seeking God, searching to know Him and the depth of His love toward His people. I want to know Christ's heart and the compassions that motivate Him. The Scriptures are plain: Jesus loved people. Mark's Gospel tells us that after He taught and healed the multitudes, they became hungry. In His compassion, Christ saw them as "sheep without a shepherd" (Mark 6:34). It was not enough for Him to heal and teach them; He personally cared for each of them. Their physical well-being, even concerning food, was important to Him.

A lad with five loaves and two fish provided enough for Jesus to work another miracle, but this miracle had to come through Christ's willing but bone-weary body. Consider: Christ brought His disciples out to rest, "For there were many people coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat" (Mark 6:31).

Consider: Jesus personally had come to pray and be strengthened. For John the Baptist, Jesus' forerunner, had been beheaded earlier that very week at the hands of Herod. It was in the state of being emotionally and physically depleted that Jesus fed the multitudes—not just once or twice but over and over again. "He kept giving [the bread and the fish] to the disciples to set before them" (Mark 6:41).

Thousands of men, women and children all "ate and were satisfied" (verse 42)! Oh, the heart of Jesus! The miracle was for them, but we read of no miracle sustaining Him except the marvelous wonder of a holy love that continually lifted His tired hands with more bread and more fish. Out of increasing weakness He repeatedly gave that others might be renewed.

So, if my quest is to know Him, I must recognize this about Him: Jesus loves people—all people, especially those society ignores. Therefore, I must know exactly how far He would travel for men, for that is the same distance He would journey again through me. Indeed, I must know His thoughts concerning illness, poverty and human suffering.

As His servant, I am useless to Him unless I know these things. If I would actually do His will, I must truly know His heart. Therefore, in all my study and times of prayer I am seeking more than just knowledge; I am searching for the heart of God.

## Knowing Our Hearts

At the same time, as I draw closer to the heart of God, the very fire of His presence begins a deep purging

work within me. In the vastness of His riches, my poverty appears. The psalmist wrote, "Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? And who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood, and has not sworn deceitfully" (Psalm 24:3-4).

We cannot even find the hill of the Lord, much less ascend it, if there is deceit in our heart. How does one serve in God's holy place if his soul is unclean? It is only the pure in heart who perceive God. To ascend toward God is to walk into a furnace of truth where falsehood is extracted from our souls. To abide in the holy place we must dwell in honesty, even when a lie might seem to save us. Each ascending step upon the hill of God is a thrusting of our souls into greater transparency, a more perfect view into the motives of our hearts.

It is this upward call of God which we pursue. Yet, the soul within us is hidden, crouching in fears and darkness, living in a world of untruths and illusions. This is our inner man, the soul God seeks to save. Have you discovered your true self, the inner person whom truth alone can free? Yes, we seek holiness, but true holiness arises from here; it comes as the Spirit of Truth unveils the hidden places in our hearts. Indeed, it is truthfulness which leads to holiness.

God, grant us a zeal for truth that we may stand in Your holy place! Men everywhere presume they know the "truth" but have neither holiness nor power in their lives. Truth must become more than historical doctrines; it must be more than a museum of religious

artifacts—mementos from when God once moved. Truth is knowing God's heart as it was revealed in Christ, and it is knowing our own hearts in the light of God's grace.

As members of the human race, we are shrouded in ignorance. Barely do we know our world around us; even less do we know the nature of our own souls. Without realizing it, as we search for God's heart, we are also searching for our own. For it is only in finding Him that we discover ourselves, for we are "in Him."

Yet, throughout that searching process, as I position my heart before the Lord, it is with a sense of trembling that I pray the prayer of King David, "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my anxious thoughts; and see if there be any hurtful way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way" (Psalm 139:23-24).

Let us wash the cosmetics from our souls and look at the unadorned condition of our hearts. I know God has created us eternally complete and perfect in Christ. I believe that. But in the first three chapters of John's Revelation, Jesus did not tell the churches they were "perfect in His eyes." No! He revealed to them their true conditions; He told them their sins. Without compromise, He placed on them the demand to be overcomers, each in their own unique and difficult circumstances.

Like them, we must know our need. And like them, the souls we want saved dwell here, in a world system structured by lies, illusions and rampant corruption. Our old

natures are like well-worn shoes into which we relax; we can be in the flesh instantly without even realizing it. The enemies that defeat us are hidden and latent within us! Thus, the Holy Spirit must expose our foes before we can conquer them!

Concerning man's nature, the prophet Jeremiah wrote, "The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it?" (Jeremiah 17:9). Quoting another of David's prayers, a similar cry is heard, "Who can discern his errors? Acquit me of hidden faults. Also keep back Thy servant from presumptuous sins; let them not rule over me; then I shall be blameless, and I shall be acquitted of great transgression" (Psalm 19:12-13).

There may be errors inside of us that are actually ruling us without our awareness. Do we realize, for instance, how many of our actions are manipulated purely by vanity and the desire to be seen or accepted by others? Are we aware of the fears and apprehensions that unconsciously influence so many of our decisions? We may have serious flaws inside yet still be either too proud or too insecure to admit we need help.

Concerning ourselves, we think so highly of what we know so little!

Even outwardly, though we know our camera pose, do we know how we appear when we are laughing or crying, eating or sleeping, talking or angry? The fact is, most of us are ignorant of how we appear outwardly to others; much less do we know ourselves inwardly before God! Our fallen thinking processes

automatically justify our actions and rationalize our thoughts. Without the Holy Spirit, we are nearly defenseless against our own innate tendencies toward self-deception.

Therefore, if we would be holy, we must first renounce falsehood. In the light of God's grace, having been justified by faith and washed in the sacrificial Blood of Jesus, we need not pretend to be righteous. We need only to become truthful.

No condemnation awaits our honesty of heart—no punishment. We have only to repent and confess our sins to have them forgiven and cleansed; if we will love the truth, we shall be delivered from sin and self-deception. Indeed, we need to know two things and two things only: the heart of God in Christ and our own hearts in Christ's light.

Permission is granted (and you are also encouraged) to reprint these articles in hard copy form, as well as sending them to your own email lists and posting them on your own websites. We ask only that you keep ElijahList website, email contact info, and author contact information intact.

Francis Frangipane  
Ministries of Francis Frangipane  
Email: francis1@frangipane.org

ElijahList Publications  
310 2nd Ave SE,  
Albany, OR 97321  
www.elijahlist.com  
email: info@elijahlist.net  
Phone 1-541-926-3250

*Editor's Comment: I first heard Francis Frangipane speak at a conference in Rockford, IL. Since that day, many years ago, his writings seem to come across my desk frequently. The above article is one of those writings. Francis Frangipane is founding pastor of River of Life Church in Cedar Rapids, IA. He has also authored many books, which, too, find their way to my desk.*

# Fine-Sounding Arguments

By Pastor Tim Spickler

As a kid, did you ever have a friend that could talk you into doing almost anything? You know what I am talking about. That kid could make anything sound like a lot of fun even if you were totally against it. If you don't know what I am talking about, you probably were "that" kid. Things have not changed with kids. I have been dealing with children's and youth ministry for a little while now, and I can usually pick out the smooth talker. Actually, it is not just a "kid" thing. Some adults are very good at convincing others for their cause, too.

Everywhere you look there are people trying to convince you of something. They are out there telling you of wonderful products for you to spend your money on. People are everywhere trying to persuade you to their personal ideals and politics. They are trying to influence you in the way you should eat, dress, smell and even the way you should throw your garbage away. Everyone has their "spin" they want to get across.

We, as Christians, do the same

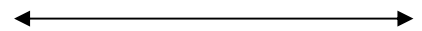
thing. We should be working hard to share the Good News of Jesus to the world around us. We are to be making disciples who are seeking the Lord and His righteousness. It is my job as a pastor to make the Word of God come alive in the lives of the people. I am supposed to put together messages from God's Word that point people to the goodness of our God and His plan for our lives. Scripture tells us that pastors and teachers are to "to prepare God's people for works of service" Eph 4:12 (NIV). So it is my responsibility to persuade God's people to live a life that glorifies God.

Unfortunately, there are others in the world that are working hard to share other messages. Paul writes in Colossians 2 "I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments." Col 2:4 (NIV). He was talking to the church and telling them to be careful when listening to others. There were many people who were sharing things to undermine Biblical Truth. Gnosticism was running wild in the church at that time. Gnosticism is a non-biblical teaching about "knowledge" that Christians were allowing in their churches and teaching. The problem was that there were people who were per-

suading the Christians with "fine-sounding arguments" and the Christians believed the arguments. Paul was so concerned that he warned them against such teachings.

Today the same things are happening. People with "fine-sounding arguments" are convincing Christians and non-Christians to believe their lies. There are people who are making "fine-sounding arguments" for very non-Biblical causes that Christians are giving into and are saying are okay. We are dealing with a world that endorses whatever feels good no matter where it stands with the Word of God. We are dealing with a world that is saying evil is good and good is evil... does that sound familiar? Isaiah 5:20 tells us "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil".

Think of some of the fine-sounding arguments you have heard lately. Have you measured them against God's Word? Are you believing lies because someone has spewed forth some kind of rhetoric? My advice is to be careful. Don't allow fine-sounding non-Biblical arguments influence your daily living. Trust God! Trust His Word, and trust His leading.



For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

## **Important Notice:** **New Seat Belt Law**

**This becomes  
effective January 1,  
2009 in ALL states.**

The National Highway Safety Council has done extensive testing on a newly designed seat belt. Results show that accidents can be reduced by as much as 45% when the belt is properly installed.

Correct installation instructions on page 19.

## **Can I Trust God?** By Pastor Gary Turner

Boy, do things seem to be going crazy in the world around us! People are telling me they are beginning to stress out over the economy, the new president, the fight in two wars, potential job loss and even in life in general! Bottom line, in all the discussions we have is the question, "Can I trust God to get us through this?"

I have to say, "Yes!" I think of the story of Isaac in Genesis 26:1-15. There was extreme famine in the land where he lived and people were going to Egypt to get relief from the famine. Isaac planned on doing the same thing, but God told him, "Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land where I tell you to live. Stay in the land for awhile and I will be with you and bless you." In verse 12 we are told, "Isaac planted crops in the land (*the land being racked with famine- 12:1*), and the same year reaped a hundredfold, because the Lord blessed him."

At the same time, I have to believe Paul as he wrote in Philippians 1:6, "Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." God has not brought His church (made up of His people) to this point in history, to watch it be destroyed by a world setting that is coming apart! Stand firm! Stand in faith! And, listen carefully to the instruction of the Lord! He will bless those who are faithful to His commands and Word!

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

"040108"  
Mr. Mrs. John Smith  
12221 Your Street  
Anytown, USA

At the top of the address label on the back page of the magazine is a multi-digit number. That number is the beginning date of your one year subscription. Your subscription to our Sonshine Magazine will end one year from that date. If your number is "040108", it means your subscription will end April 1, 2009. If you wish to renew your subscription, please call me at 815-335-1405 or e-mail me at [Pastorgary@winnewlife.com](mailto:Pastorgary@winnewlife.com).



## **Senior Citizen's Luncheon**

**Corned beef and  
Cabbage!**  
**March 19th, 2009**  
**11:45 AM**

**Everyone is invited! Bring  
a friend! Please RSVP at  
815-335-1405 by Tuesday,  
March 17th.**

(If you would like to help in any way with this luncheon, please contact Char Spickler through the church office at 815-335-1405.)

# *New Life Bible Church*

## *“3rd Saturday”*

### *March 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.*

©2008 Bill Rjab

<http://www.billrjab.com>

## **Thank You!**

In the last issue of our Sunshine Magazine, I printed a poem entitled “It Couldn’t Be Done.” I said that I had not taken the time to look up the author of the poem on the Internet. The magazine had not been in the mail more than an hour on Saturday morning, and I received a call from Francis Wade, a member of New Life Bible Church. He quickly informed me this was one of his favorite poems and the author is Edward A. Guest.

Thank you, Francis, for taking the time to call and share this information with us. This is a simple example of how the body of Christ is supposed to work together for the common good of all who are a part of it.

## **Want to know more about God?**

Mid-week Bible Study

Wednesday morning— 10:00 AM @  
New Life Bible Church

Wednesday evening— 6:00 PM @  
Pastor Gary & Glenda’s house as weather permits. 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.

# BOOK REVIEW PLUS....

By Glenda Turner

I have to tell you I am impressed! By what? By the quality of the books that I have found in the New Life library! Any library can have quantity. Years ago I was in a group of women that started what became the Winnebago Public Library. Books were donated by the boxful. But many of those books were old and tattered. Many of them were left over from garage sales. We were delighted to have them, but they were in rugged condition. But have you looked at the books on the shelves in our hallway library? They are first class, well cared for, and many of them are like new.

This did not happen by accident. Susan and Jordan Knoup have made this library happen. It all started when Susan, who by the way is “not a reader” (her own words), felt called by God to build a library. She knew that Jordan was reading books by the dozen which left the family with good books that others could enjoy. She could have taken these books to the public library but felt led by God to start a ministry to benefit other families and other readers. She and Jordan have struggled with the weight of boxes of books ever since. The Knoup’s have put up with boxes in the way in their house and spent hours in organization. When you’re in the church,

check it out. When you see Susan or Jordan, thank them—better yet, call them or drop them a note.

If you aren’t intrigued yet, let me tell you about a few of the books in the library. First of all, every book that the book club has enjoyed is in the library. I recommend them all. Beyond that there are books of interest to a wide range of tastes. Let me tell you about a few of my recent discoveries.

*Me, Myself, & Bob: A True Story about Dreams, God, and Talking Vegetables*, by Phil Vischer, the creator of VeggieTales®. This is the true life story of the rise and tragic fall of VeggieTales®. Did you know that the company that made these great videos went bankrupt and that the creator and owner lost all rights to these characters? I didn’t. How sad. (Obviously, I have loved these talking vegetables from the first video I saw, so I take this personal!) But even those who don’t see the humor in “Oh, Where is My Hair Brush” and other Silly Songs, can learn from Phil Vischer’s experience of having a dream that he felt came from God. Vischer brought that dream to life. He enjoyed an explosive success and then lost everything in the end. At the end of the book, Phil lays out the lessons he’s learned along the way: things like needing people that are creative and people that can run the business side of things BUT these people must be acting in Christian love and be seeking God’s will always. If you love VeggieTales®, read the book and learn how they came into being. If you are a businessman with a great idea, read the book for some real life advice. If you’re a computer nut, read this book to find out how

he created these vegetables that moved. If you’re a Christian, read it to find the common theme—how we all lose it when we run ahead of God. Good book—great lessons!

*Made to Stick: Why Some Ideas Survive and Others Die*, by Chip Heath and Dan Heath. Here’s a secular book with biblical references. This book is all about how to communicate so that others remember your message. The Heath brothers explain how to speak clearly and how to make your message stand out. I read this book and used the techniques to re-create my presentation for the Board of Directors at Girl Scouts last night. What an amazing difference with just a few simple principles! I was more confident and my presentation was well received. Where did this book come from? Some businessman, or businesswoman, donated a book that blessed me. Thank you.

The library is full of a wide variety of books and DVD’s. You’ll find books on practical Christian living and an assortment of Christian fiction written by everyone from C.S. Lewis to Ted Dekker. There should be something there that young and old will enjoy. I’m enjoying them all! Again, thank you, Susan and Jordan. Everyone else, go read a book—and say thanks!

*Editor’s Note: The New Life Library is located in the far end of the hall that runs in front of the bathrooms and kitchen. Everyone is welcome to use it. Checking out books are done on the honor system. If you have books that you would like to donate, contact Susan or David Knoup.*

**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!**

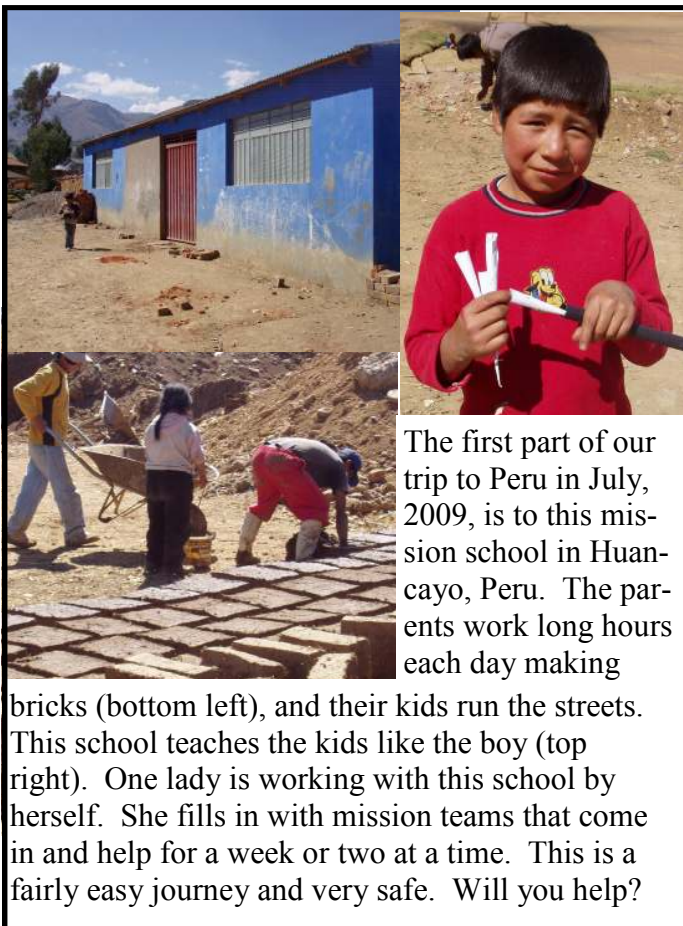
### **6:00 PM**

*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 local church in Shiringamazu, Peru. The foundation to the church was built sometime before we got there in June, 2008. We are hoping that they are currently building the walls and roof trusses. This dinner will help raise funds to put metal roof panels on the roof. If you would like to give to this building project, please send the 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.

# Ashley's Car

By Pastor Tim Spickler

I love the way some cars look! I love the smell of a new car! I find beauty in great cars. I have no mechanical skills what so ever, but I'm attracted to the way they look. I have told my wife that my first love was my 1986 Monte Carlo SS. When I was younger, I would tell her, "I love my SS." The funny part was she didn't know if I was talking about the car of my youth or her (Shelly Spickler). I look back to when we were searching for a car for our oldest daughter, Ashley. I was so excited! I would see a car and think, "That one is beautiful!" then, I would see another and think, "That one is okay."

One day we were driving through Byron and saw what I thought was a beautiful car. I loved it. We called the dealer the next day to set up a time to test drive it. I took it out for a drive and it drove pretty good. But, I still thought it looked great! I was ready to buy. Then I wised up and decided to take Ashley and Shelly to see it. We went down to see it, and, in my mind, to buy it. We got there and took a good look at the car. I was sickened! I never really looked closely at the paint of this car. The hood had a ton of chips out of the paint and there were some other issues, too. This car looked great at a simple glance but was in terrible shape when we looked at it closer. I could have made a horrible move in buying this heap. It needed a ton of work and would end up costing Ashley (who am I kidding- costing me) a ton of money.

So what is that story all about? It is a story on how we can become

deceived by what we see as beauty. Many times we become so amazed by what looks beautiful and we fail to look deeper. We need to be a people who look to where true beauty lies. This all made me think about a Scripture from Psalm 27 where it says: *One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple. For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his tabernacle and set me high upon a rock.* Psalms 27:4-5 (NIV)

As we look at this Psalm, we see that David was setting his eyes on the beauty of the Lord. He was celebrating good times and the wonders of God. One commentary I read said that this part of the Psalm was written shortly after he killed Goliath. He was riding high because he had just seen God's amazing power at work. But, how soon we forget! If we look ahead in David's life to 2 Samuel 11, David was distracted by another kind of beauty. 2 Samuel 11:2-3 says: *One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, and David sent someone to find out about her.*

David took his eyes off the beauty of the Lord and allowed himself to be deceived by physical beauty. Here David should have recognized the sin he was coming into and turned his attention to the beauty of the Lord. Instead he chose to gaze

upon Bathsheba and then send someone to find more about her.

We really need to be careful in what we are gazing upon. Are we focusing on the beauty of the Lord, or are we being deceived by worldly influences? All too often people gaze upon the things that hinder our relationship with God instead of the beauty and wonders of the Creator of the Universe!

I think it is time to do a beauty test. What are the things in life you are gazing upon? Many people have the same issue that David had. They gaze upon "stuff" that they think will make them feel better. We get caught up in things that we think are beautiful and forget about the One who is truly beautiful! Don't get caught up in "beauty" that can and will destroy.

When was the last time you sat and gazed upon the beauty of the Lord? Actually looked to see His wonders around you? Too often we see things that seem to be beautiful, but could never ever compare to the beauty of God. Nothing can compare! Be on the look-out for beauty around you. Watch for where God reveals Himself. There is nothing like it!

*Side note: We ended up finding Ashley a "beautiful" red car somewhere else. She loves it!*



# Dinner Murder Mystery Party

## March 7, 6pm

You are invited...

Next Level is hosting a Dinner Murder Mystery Party. You are invited to join us. Dinner will be provided. The game of Clue will be played out in real life before you. Costumes of the game are recommended but not required. Prizes will be given to the top two costumes. No contestants will actually be murdered in the course of the game.

Place: New Life Bible Church

Date: March 7, 2009

Time: 6:00p.m.

Cost: \$5.00 per person

For: Nextlevel kids & staff

# How Books Are Like Ice: Beauty And Danger

By Glenda Turner

The cover of this issue of Sonshine magazine shows a beautiful ice covered scene. Yet we've all heard how the recent ice storms have severed power lines, brought big trees crashing to the ground, and put people's lives into extreme danger. Some have gone without power for weeks; others have even died. The truth of the matter is that much of life is like ice—beautiful and dangerous to our very lives. We, as obedient followers of Christ, must be able to see beauty and reject the dangers. Let me give you an example.

This week, I've been awed by the pictures in a book from the church library: *SpaceShots: The Beauty of Nature Beyond Earth*, by Timothy Ferris. While this is not a "Christian" book, it is a book that shows great views created by our loving Father. I opened this book in the middle and was struck by the beauty of a picture of Saturn surrounded by its rings. I continued turning pages, looking at pictures of a glowing, blue earth. For several hours, I looked at these pictures. In fact, I talked to them. "Wow, I didn't know Jupiter had a ring!" "Look at the smiles on the faces of that Russian cosmonaut and that American astronaut—like two kids eating ice cream cones!" I took my finger and rubbed across distant galaxies, each different from the other. I saw the flames project from the sun—nothing like

the yellow circle with triangle for rays that we draw as children. And I agreed with David: *The heavens declare the glory of God: the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens he has pitched a tent for the sun. Psalm 19:1-4*

Mesmerized, I continued. The pictures of the Northern Lights brought back memories of the night when Gary and I stood on the driveway at 2:00 AM, and praised God, while the Northern Lights exploded all across the dome of heaven. I remembered how the lights settled into a pulse, like the heartbeat of God. An ancient prophet, Habakkuk, put some of this into words: *His glory covered the heavens and his praise filled the earth. His splendor was like the sunrise; rays flashed from his hand where his power was hidden. Habakkuk 3:3b-4*

By now, I'm sure you understand that I enjoyed the pictures. No, I delighted in the pictures and gave praise to the Creator. My mind was taken away from the stress of the financial outlook and the fact that I may not have a job in a few months and the doctor's appointment next week. With Paul I said: *I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. The creation waits in eager expectation. Romans 8:18-19*

And then I finished the pictures. Thumbing back through the book, I

realized that there were a few pages of text at the front that I had missed by starting in the middle. And this is where the danger showed through the beauty. The text that precedes the pictures is not godly. The author gives three different views of why humans are attracted to beauty. He includes the view that God created this beauty and adds that some say creation reveals the Creator. He quotes Scripture. Then, he turns around. He agrees with the argument of the philosopher, Kant; a Creator would be too huge for humans to understand or see in creation. Ferris doesn't say, as I do, "But what if that Creator wanted to reveal himself to his creation? What if he loves us, loves me, so much that he is reaching out to us through this beauty? Mr. Ferris, can't you see?"

*For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight .... in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure... to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ. Ephesians 1:4-10*

So what should my attitude be towards this book? Do I open the first page, read of the author's view of creation and close the book? Do I throw it away? Frankly, sometimes I do just that. I read part of a book and take it straight to the trash can. However, with this book, I decided to pray for the deluded author and continue to enjoy the pictures.

This story points out that each of us must move with caution in every-

thing we do. There is beauty and danger in this world; there are things of God, and things that deny him. When you read any book, or watch any movie, or sit in any classroom, or talk to any of the people in your life, you must watch for the beauty and the danger. I've learned that I have to take an active role in life. Solomon describes the way we must seek God's wisdom: *...turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. Proverbs 2:2-5*

That is our task as Christians. *Find the knowledge of God.* While you see the danger in the world around you, you must—we must—find that knowledge, live that knowledge, rejoice in that knowledge, and share that knowledge. *Search for it as hidden treasure....* And live surrounded by his beauty, and know that you are protected from the danger. For that text in Proverbs continues: *He holds victory in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless, and he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones. Proverbs 2:7-8*

Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. Acts 17:11

## Down-To-Earth Problems

When Christians disagree about what's right and wrong

Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Romans 12:9

TOO OFTEN THEOLOGY IS VIEWED as stuff for hermits and marooned shipwreck victims. When there's nothing else to do, then is the time to ask abstract questions about God.

Such a notion would surely have exasperated the apostle Paul. To him, theology was worthless unless it made a difference in how people lived. Therefore, he concluded the most concise theological book in the Bible with a down-to-earth discussion of contemporary problems.

### Revolutionaries and Weaker Brothers

The issue of politics surfaces in Romans (13:1-7). How should a Christian relate to government in Paul's day, when Christians were living under Nero's tyrannical regime? That question was hotly debated, as it still is in our revolution-oriented era.

Christians in Rome were also disagreeing on what was proper behavior for a Christian (14:1-15:4). One person was sure another was sinning; but that "offender" was convinced that his accuser was hopelessly narrow-minded. Who was right? The specific issues change with each culture, but Paul's guidelines on the proper attitudes apply to all.

Paul did not live as an intellectual recluse. He applied his theology to life, practicing what he preached, in fact, the lofty book of Romans was written while he was out raising money for famine victims in Jerusalem (15:25-27).

**Life Questions:** Christians in Paul's day hotly debated such issues as eating meat, celebrating holidays and drinking wine. What issues do Christians debate today? What attitude should we have toward Christians we differ with?

...taken from the Zondervan Student Bible



**Don't forget to set your clocks ahead for Daylight Savings Time!**

**Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 8th, 2009. Set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night before you go to bed.**

# From The Internet

## Judas Asparagus

If you need a laugh today, then this should do it! A child was asked to write a book report on the entire Bible. This is amazing and brought tears of laughter to my eyes. I wonder how often we take for granted that children understand what we are teaching???

### Through the eyes of a child: The Children's Bible in a Nutshell

In the beginning, which occurred near the start, there was nothing but God, darkness, and some gas. The Bible says, 'The Lord thy God is one, but I think He must be a lot older than that.

Anyway, God said, 'Give me a light!' and someone did. Then God made the world, but they weren't

**Sometimes I just can't help but wonder what the meaning of life is all about!**



embarrassed because mirrors hadn't been invented yet.

Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating one bad apple, so they were driven from the Garden of Eden... Not sure what they were driven in though, because they didn't have cars.

Adam and Eve had a son, Cain, who hated his brother as long as he was Abel.

Pretty soon all of the early people died off, except for Methuselah, who lived to be like a million or something.

One of the next important people was Noah, who was a good guy, but one of his kids was kind of a Ham. Noah built a large boat and put his family and some animals on it. He asked some other people to join him, but they said they would have to take a rain check.

After Noah came Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jacob was more famous than his brother, Esau, because Esau sold Jacob his birthmark in exchange for some pot roast. Jacob had a son named Joseph who wore a really loud sports coat.

Another important Bible guy is Moses, whose real name was Charlton Heston. Moses led the Israel Lights out of Egypt and away from the evil Pharaoh after God sent ten plagues on Pharaoh's people. These plagues included frogs, mice, lice, bowels, and no cable TV.

God fed the Israel Lights every day with manicotti. Then he gave them His Top Ten Commandments. These include: don't lie, cheat, smoke, dance, or covet your neighbor's stuff.

**Why does a good drink of cold water taste sooo good?**

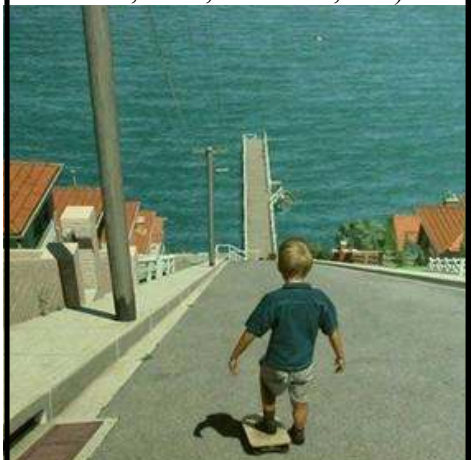


Oh, yeah, I just thought of one more: Humor thy father and thy mother.

One of Moses' best helpers was Joshua who was the first Bible guy to use spies. Joshua fought the battle of Geritol and the fence fell over on the town.

After Joshua came David. He got to be king by killing a giant with a slingshot. He had a son named Solomon who had about 300 wives and 500 porcupines. My teacher says he was wise, but that doesn't sound very wise to me.

**Look Mom, No Hands!** ( or skin on either knee, nose, forehead, etc.)



...Pictures on this page submitted by Mary Ann Kringel, Ormond Beach, FL

After Solomon there were a bunch of major league prophets. One of these was Jonah, who was swallowed by a big whale and then barfed up on the shore.

There were also some minor league prophets, but I guess we don't have to worry about them.

After the Old Testament came the New Testament. Jesus is the star of The New. He was born in Bethlehem in a barn. (I wish I had been born in a barn too, because my mom is always saying to me, 'Close the door! Were you born in a barn?' It would be nice to say, 'As a matter of fact, I was.')

During His life, Jesus had many arguments with sinners like the Pharisees and the Democrats.

Jesus also had twelve opossums.

The worst one was Judas Asparagus. Judas was so evil that they named a terrible vegetable after him.

Jesus was a great man. He healed many leopards and even preached to some Germans on the Mount.

But the Democrats and all those guys put Jesus on trial before Pontius the Pilot. Pilot didn't stick up for Jesus. He just washed his hands instead.

Anyways, Jesus died for our sins, then came back to life again. He went up to Heaven but will be back at the end of the Aluminum. His return is foretold in the book of Revolution.

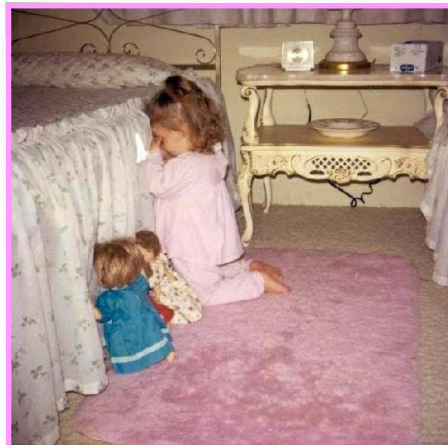
*Editor's Comments: This kid did a good job of putting the whole Bible story in perspective. Some of his editorials are amazing, such as "Judas (Asparagus) was so evil that they named a terrible vegetable after him." Personally, I think his timing is off on the return of Jesus, but at least he has Jesus coming again.*

*...submitted by Stacy Knoup, Pecatonica, IL*



**Its great to see little Timmy saying his bedtime prayers. But, I can't help but notice the intensity on the face of the dog next to him. Wow!**

*...Submitted by Char Spickler, Mt Morris, IL*



**Little girls have their prayer partners, too! These pictures are so neat.**

*...submitted by Shelly Spickler, Winnebago, IL*

**“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” Mark 10:15**

**Instructions for proper seat belt installation and use from page 9!**



**Now that you have read through the entire magazine, I want to leave you with pictures of a real ice storm!**



This is the results of heavy wind storm across a lake on a super cold day. Pictures taken in Versoix, Switzerland.

*Investigate my life, O God, find  
out everything about me;  
Cross-examine and test me, get  
a clear picture of what I'm about;  
See for yourself whether I've done  
anything wrong— then guide me  
on the road to eternal life.  
Psalm 139:23 (Message)*



Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit #14  
Winnebago, IL  
61088

***Sonshine*** Magazine is a monthly publication of New Life Bible Church, Winnebago, IL. It is published for the purpose of encouraging you to do good to other people in the name of Jesus Christ! If you would like a copy mailed to your home, please contact our editor, Pastor Gary Turner at (815) 335-1405 or by E-mail at [Pastorgary@winnewlife.com](mailto:Pastorgary@winnewlife.com).