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NEWSLETTER FROM MEMPHIS SCHOOL OF PREACHING
Under the Oversight of the ELDERS
FOREST HILL CHURCH OF CHRIST

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YOKEFELLOW

Vol. 37, No. 8

August 2010

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LIBRARY FUND RAISING GOAL MET!

In the September-October, 2009 special issue on the Library, I wrote: *Our plans for the Library, as outlined in this issue, will cost \$100,000. We know we can count on supporters, who see the special need for a well-equipped Library of excellent resource materials, to help us with these funds.*

We are happy to report that our goal has been met and exceeded. Several brethren, along with the MSOP Alumni Association, have generously contributed. Thanks to all! We have completed Phase I of our update, and we plan to complete Phase II within a few months. Positive comments from excited students have confirmed that these improvements were very much needed.

Among the donors was brother Freddie L. Burns of Corinth, MS. He, in the name of his beloved, deceased wife, Virginia R. Burns, and himself (pictured to the right), made a very significant contribution, for which we are extremely grateful. A beautiful plaque featuring a photo of brother and sister Burns will be placed in the Library to honor them, so that generations to come will know of their love for the church, their desire to help men to preach the Gospel, and their exemplary use of the prosperity with which God blessed them.



BL

FOUR FATHERS OF ALUMNI HAVE DIED RECENTLY

In the past few months (since March) four fathers of alumni of Memphis School of Preaching have deceased. Ernest H. Young, father of Keith Young (1999 graduate) died in March. Brother Ernest Young preached for several congregations in Cannon County and was later selected as an elder at the Leoni, TN congregation and served for over twenty years.

In recent weeks, the fathers of R. F. Knox, Jr. (1975 graduate), Melvin Hampton, (1979 graduate), and Jason Hilburn (2005 graduate) have passed away.

Solomon wrote that “A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold” (Pro. 22:1). Brethren Young, Knox, Hampton, and Hilburn surely were given names from men who wore theirs proudly in life. Sympathy is extended from all the faculty and staff to our grieving brethren.

Keith A. Mosher, Sr.

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WORKING TOGETHER TO BUILD A HAPPY HOME

Bobby Liddell

From the beginning, God's divinely given plan called for all, in the home, to work together to build a happy home, to serve Him faithfully, and to help one another get to Heaven. God created, as partners in the first marriage, a man and a woman (Gen. 1:27). God does not condone any other arrangement (Gal. 5:19-21).

HUSBAND AND WIFE MUST WORK TOGETHER

God created men and women to be different from each other in many ways--physically, sexually, emotionally, etc. Yet, in marriage, the male and female wonderfully complement each other, each supplying what the other lacks, all according to God's wonderful purpose. In marriage, as God planned, there is companionship (cf. Sol. 4:9-10; 8:1-2). God saw it was not good for man to be alone (Gen. 2:18). Adam needed someone he did not have. Though Adam looked, he found no suitable companion among the animals (Gen. 2:19-20). So, God created a helper suitable for man. God did not create a slave, nor did he give to man a master, but a suitable helper.

The woman, the wife, is to be man's companion for life, as he is to be hers. They are to work together as best friends, helping each other with the tremendous task of successfully navigating their course through the rocky seas of life. Anyone who has been married for long knows it takes both husband and wife to accomplish this. According to God's plan, married life provides each one with the fulfillment needed to enjoy life. Without each other, life is not the "good" life God intended marriage to be, but with each other, there is friendship, love, comfort, strength, joy, help, encouragement, intimacy, and satisfaction. Man, and woman, are not alone, and that is good.

Adam and Eve were given work to do in the garden of Eden (Gen. 2:15). As the first husband and wife, they also had the important task of working together to build a happy home. God wanted them to be happy, as he wants us to be. Adam's response, when God brought Eve to him, was one of joy (Gen. 2:23). With Eve, he found a co-worker. With her, he could have the tender, personal, human relationship he could not have with the animals. Marriage, God's way, promises joy. Newlyweds enter this relationship with great anticipation of "living happily ever after." While, in reality, there will be disappointments, and real life does not measure up to fairy tale expectations, still there is real joy and true happiness in God's plan. Building the home according to any other plan will have disastrous consequences.

Workers building a house of wood and brick must follow the plan. When all work together, they will complete the building of the house as it should be. So, it is in marriage. All must work together, but cannot work together as they should without working for Christ together (1 Cor. 15:58).

PARENTS AND CHILDREN MUST WORK TOGETHER

As husband and wife must work together, so must parents and children. If one is building, and another is tearing down, the home is never built, but is always harmed, often irreparably. The wise man recorded: "Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands" (Pro. 14:1). Nehemiah's account of the rebuilding of the wall of Jerusalem contains this encouraging word: "So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work" (Neh. 4:6). Building a happy home requires all the members of the home to have a "mind to work." It is not just the responsibility of one member, usually the wife/mother, as so many think. If one will honestly consider the following verses, he will surely conclude that all members of the home must be involved in its being what it should be.

Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise:) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth (Eph. 6:1-3; cf. Exo. 20:12; 21:17).

And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Eph. 6:4).

Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate (Psa. 127:3-5).

That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children. To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God not be blasphemed (Tit. 2:4-5).

Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church, and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it...So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself...For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh...Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself, and the wife see that she reverence her husband (Eph. 5:22-33).

Children have a part in making the home happy. Children are to obey parents, and honor father and mother. Parents and children, according to God's plan, are not enemies. Nor are parents, in exercising parental authority, seeking to punish children, keeping them from having fun. Parents are seeking to mold a young life for time and eternity. From the child's conception, a godly mother would have prayed for him, seeking God's blessings, petitioning Him for His help that she might be the mother she should be, and which the child deserved. Daily, she brought her pleas before the throne of God, promising to do all she could to direct the child in the right way, and seeking the wisdom to do so. Father also, before the child was ever born, was offering his thanks to God for the prospect of having this precious little baby. He planned how to provide for him, and longingly looked to the day he would see this baby become a strong, productive, happy adult. To God, he made a solemn vow to be the father he should be, and which this beloved child deserved. When the child was born, the sacrifice of sleep, the care of nourishing and protecting, and the expense of providing were gladly borne by loving parents whose thoughts were for the welfare of their child. They loved and gave willingly and abundantly, thanking God for having so blessed them.

Now, should not this child love his parents? Should he not be filled with trust, knowing they would give their very lives for his? Should he not respect them--even when they have grown older, when the years of care of rearing him have wrinkled their faces, and whitened their hair, and the costs of providing for him have bent their backs from toil? If children will love, trust, and respect parents, they will not have a problem obeying them. It is just that simple. Proper discipline, to such a child, will be recognized as an act of love: "He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes" (Pro. 13:24). When Mom and Dad restrict the places the child can go, the people with whom he can run, or the activities in which the child can participate, the child should realize it is for his good, not his harm (1 Cor. 15:33). He should thank God that his parents keep him from certain dangers of youth. Did they not, he might, in his inexperience and ignorance, place himself in grave jeopardy, or ruin his life, even destroying hope for a happy eternity.

CONCLUSION

All must work together to build a happy home, but the home will never be happy without Christ. In Christ is where real rejoicing is, for in Christ is where one has reason to rejoice, for in Christ is where one has redemption (Phi. 4:4; Gal. 3:26ff). To work diligently, yet without heeding Divine direction, will produce results which fall far short of accomplishing what God wants in the home. This principle stands: "Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it..." (Psa. 127:1). Please note that we stress the home is to be HAPPY. This is not to say the house, in which the home resides, must be big, expensive, fashionable,

lavishly appointed, impressive, or exclusive. Some of the finest Christians I have ever known have been poor, some extremely poor, but they were happy together in a home where Christ was the honored guest.

A young Christian lady attended her friend's sixteenth birthday party. Upon her return home, she excitedly described how her friend had received a new car for her birthday present, how impressive was the party, and how expensive was the house of the friend's divorced father. The young Christian's father observed, "I just imagine she would quickly and gladly trade all the cars and houses in the world to have her home back together, to enjoy a happy home with her mother and father, and to be as 'rich' as you are." With the home built according to God's plan, comes the happiness He desires for us.

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