



# Christian Church of God Newsletter

Volume 18, Issue 6 Sept/Oct 2010

Happy Holy Days!

It's hard to believe, but here we are again, entering the rich tradition and spiritual blessing of the autumnal Festival season.

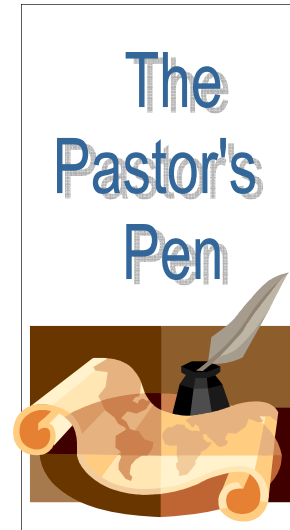
We will celebrate the Festival of Trumpets Wednesday, the 9<sup>th</sup> of September, with a special Holy Day worship service. This Festival for the ages points to that day when "...the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we

*shall always be with the Lord.*" (1Thess 4:16-17). This time, Jesus is coming as conquering King, not meek Lamb.

As we celebrate this Festival in its New Testament light we are to remain steadfast in our prayer, "*thy kingdom*

*come*" and we eagerly anticipate the welcome words of our Master, "*Well done, good and faithful servant*" (Matt 25:21-22). The world groans for the promised restitution of God's glorious creation, when Christ takes His rightful place on His throne, establishes His Kingdom restores this fallen world (Rev 3:21).

On the Sabbath of September 18<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate The Day of Atonement, illuminating God's saving grace through our Savior's atonement. Romans 5:11, "*And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the*





THE STRANGER

A few years after I was born, my Dad met a stranger who was new to our small town. From the beginning, Dad was fascinated with this enchanting newcomer and soon invited him to live with our family. The stranger was quickly accepted and was around from then on.

As I grew up, I never questioned his place in my family. In my young mind, he had a special niche. My parents were complementary instructors: Mum taught me good from evil, and Dad taught me to obey. But the stranger . . . He was our storyteller. He would keep us spellbound for hours on end with adventures, mysteries and comedies.

If I wanted to know anything about politics, history or science, he always seemed to know the answers about the past, understand the present, and even seemed able to predict the future! He took my family to our first major league ball game. He made me laugh, and he made me cry. The stranger never stopped talking, but Dad didn't seem to mind. Sometimes, Mum would get up quietly while the rest of us were shushing each other in order to listen to what he had to say, and she would go to the kitchen for peace and quiet. (I wonder now if she ever prayed for the stranger to leave.)

Dad ruled our household with certain moral convictions, but the stranger never felt obligated to honor them. Profanity, for example, was not allowed in our home — not from us, our friends, or an visitors. Our long-time visitor, however, got away with four-letter words that burned my ears and made my father squirm and my mother blush. Dad didn't permit the liberal use of alcohol, but the stranger encouraged us to try it on a regular bases. He made cigarettes look cool, cigars manly, and pipes distinguished. He talked freely about sex—his comments sometimes blatant, sometimes suggestive, and generally embarrassing.

I now know that my early concepts about relationships were influenced strongly by the stranger. Time after time he opposed the values of my parents, yet he was seldom rebuked. And never asked to leave.

More than fifty years have passed since the stranger moved in with our family. He has blended right in and is not nearly as fascinating as he was at first. Still, if you could walk into my parents' den today, you would still find him sitting over in his corner, waiting for someone to listen to him talk.

His name? Well, early on we nicknamed him TV.

By the way, he's married now; her name is Computer. And there are two children: Cell Phone and Ipod.

~ Anonymous

When they said, "Let's go to the house of God,"

my heart leaped for joy.

Psalms 122:1 (MSG)

Let's see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping out, not avoiding worshipping together as some do but

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CHECK THIS MEDIA

Email: CCofGod@suddenlink.net

Our sermons broadcast on

KGRO Radio 9:05 AM Sunday.

www.pan-tex.net

## Charles Spurgeon

### The Treasury of David/ PSALM 81 (see page 6)

*The trumpet.* The sound of the trumpet is very commonly employed in Scripture as an image of the voice or word of God. The voice of God, and the voice of the trumpet on Mount Sinai, were heard together ([Exodus 19:5, 18-19](#)), first the trumpet sound as the symbol, then the reality. So also John heard the voice of the Lord as that of a trumpet ([Revelation 1:10 4:1](#)), and the sound of the trumpet is once and again spoken of as the harbinger of the Son of Man, when coming in power and great glory, to utter the almighty word which shall quicken the dead to life, and make all things new ([Matthew 24:31](#) [1 Corinthians 15:52](#); [1 Thessalonians 4:16](#)). The sound of the trumpet, then, was a symbol of the majestic, omnipotent voice or word of God; but of course only in those things in which it was employed in respect to what God had to say to men. It might be used also as from man to God, or by the people, as from one to another. In this case, it would be a call to a greater than usual degree of alacrity and excitement in regard to the work and service of God. And such probably was the more peculiar design of the blowing of trumpets at the festivals generally, and especially at the festival of trumpets on the first day of the second month. *Joseph Francis Thrupp.*

*"In the new moon,"* etc. The feast of the *new moon* was always proclaimed by sound of trumpet. For want of astronomical knowledge, the poor Jews were put to sad shifts to know the real time of the new moon. They generally sent persons to the top of some hill or mountain about the time which, according to their supputations, the new moon should appear. The first who saw it was to give immediate notice to the Sanhedrim; they closely examined the reporter as to his credibility, and whether his information agreed with their calculations. If all was found satisfactory, the president proclaimed the new moon by shouting out, *שְׁמַח מִקְּדֹשׁ!* "It is consecrated." This word was repeated *twice* aloud by the people; and was then proclaimed everywhere by *blowing of horns*, or what is called the sound of *trumpets*. Among the Hindus some feasts are announced by the sound of the *conch*, or *sacred shell*. *Adam Clarke.*

*In the time appointed.* The word rendered the time appointed, signifies the *hidden* or *covered* period; that is, the time when the moon is concealed or covered with darkness. This day was a joyful festival, returning every month; but the first day of the seventh moon was most solemn of the whole; being not only the first of the moon, but of the civil year. This was called the feast of trumpets, as it was celebrated by the blowing of trumpets from sunrise to sun setting; according to the command, "It shall be a day of the blowing of trumpets to you." This joy was a memorial of the joy of creation, and the joy of giving the law; it also preindicated the blowing of the gospel trumpet, after the dark, the covered period of the death of Christ, when the form of the church changed, and the year of the "redeemed" began; and finally, it prefigured the last day, when the trumpet of God shall sound, and the dead shall be raised. *Alexander Pirie.*

" . . . The prayer of faith shall save the sick and the Lord shall raise him up; . . . Pray for one another that you may be healed."  
— James 5:15-16.

## Prayer Requests



**Amber & Dylan Clark:** Grandchildren of Betty Clark, cerebral palsy.

**Vickie Crevoi:** Sister of Linda Booth, Chronic Progressive MS.

**Sherry Evans:** Niece of Jerry McClenagan & Glennis McAlister, now in nursing home.

**Harry Gonzales:** Showing improvement from health problems.

**Velvet Green:** Suffers from schizophrenia.

**Anna Law:** In need of a kidney transplant; she has dialysis three times a week.

**Dollie Meil:** She suffers with cerebral palsy and lung problems.

**Ryan Rankin:** Thrown from a horse and broke his back.

**Ted Rankin:** MS; he is somewhat improved.

**Artie Marsh:** James Sellers' 96-year old grandmother is in failing health.

**Jane Shaffer:** Sister of Joe Kirkpatrick, malignant bone tumors. She is responding well to treatment.

**Laura Stephens:** Mother-in-law of Shannon (Sehorn) Stephens, cancer in lungs, kidneys & liver, but showing improvement.

**Ron Vorheis:** Doing better.

**Ben Vorheis:** serving another stint overseas, now in Afghanistan.

### IF YOU HAVE UPDATES OR NEW REQUESTS PLEASE INFORM THE EDITOR.

[jerrydalemc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jerrydalemc@sbcglobal.net)

#### PRAISE REPORT

Dear Editor: I learned yesterday that the tumor on my adrenal gland is gone and a very small trace of the lymphoma remains on the lymph nodes near my stomach. The doctor believes the chemotherapy I had yesterday and the chemo I will have on September 16 will probably eliminate the remaining traces of cancer. I will be scheduled for up to three more sessions if necessary. I will be placed on a monitoring program to watch for any recurring cancer. God answers prayer. Praise God! Gene Phelan

# Celebrations

## SEPTEMBER

### Birthdays:

C.B. Sehorn	09-02
Velvet Green	09-08

## OCTOBER

### Birthdays:

Jaycee Sellers	10/3
Tiffany Hamilton	10/4
Patricia Hamilton	10/9
Joctavian Henley	10/10
Mary Vorheis	10/11
Jason Kirkpatrick	10/24

### Anniversaries:

Merle & Joe Beth Vines	10/5
J.R. & Norma Hamilton	10/12



# Congratulations!

To JOE KIRKPATRICK on his award of a BLUE RIBBON in wood-working at the Roosevelt County Fair in Portales, New Mexico

# A MORAL COMPASS<sup>13</sup>



## CONSCIENCE

### Directional Principles for Right Living

Give me your lantern and compass, give me a map, so I can find my way to the sacred mountain. (Psalm 43:3, MSG) O people, the LORD has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God. ( Micah 6:8, NLT)

#### **Thomas Jefferson**

All tyranny needs to gain a foothold is for people of good conscience to remain silent.

It behooves every man who values liberty of conscience for himself, to resist invasions of it in the case of others: or their case may, by change of circumstances, become his own.

Our greatest happiness does not depend on the condition of life in which chance has placed us, but is always the result of a good conscience, good health, occupation, and freedom in all just pursuits.

#### **Albert Einstein**

Never do anything against conscience even if the state demands it.

#### **Mohandas Gandhi**

In matters of conscience, the law of the majority has no place.

The human voice can never reach the distance that is covered by the still small voice of conscience.

There is a higher court than courts of justice and that is the court of conscience. It supersedes all other courts.

#### **George Washington**

Labor to keep alive in your breast that little spark of celestial fire, called conscience.

#### **Leonardo da Vinci**

I love those who can smile in trouble, who can gather strength from distress, and grow brave by reflection. 'Tis the business of little minds to shrink, but they whose heart is firm, and whose conscience approves their conduct, will pursue their principles unto death.

#### **Voltaire**

The safest course is to do nothing against one's conscience. With this secret, we can enjoy life and have no fear from death.

#### **Will Rogers**

People are getting smarter nowadays; they are letting lawyers, instead of their conscience, be their guide.

#### **Martin Luther**

I cannot and will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. Here I stand, I can do no other, so help me God. Amen.

# HOLY DAY SERVICES

Classes at 11:00 a.m.  
Worship Services at 11:45 a.m.

## FESTIVAL OF TRUMPETS

September 9<sup>th</sup>

*Celebrating the Triumphant Return of Jesus Christ*

## DAY OF ATONEMENT

September 18<sup>th</sup>

*Celebrating Jesus Christ as our Atonement*

## FESTIVAL OF TABERNACLES

1<sup>st</sup> Holy Day – September 23<sup>rd</sup>

*Celebrating Jesus Christ Tabernacling with Man*

## Steak Cook Out

Sabbath of September 25<sup>th</sup>

Following Services

## LAST GREAT DAY of the Festival September 30<sup>th</sup>

*Celebrating Jesus Christ, Our Righteous Judge*



atonement.”

Then comes the Festival of Tabernacles, pointing us to that time of hope's consummation when God will “tabernacle” with man in the Kingdom of God following the promised and sure return of Jesus in power and glory, the glorious wedding supper for Christ and His Church, and the defeat of all that is evil.

Rev 21:1, “*And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. 2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. 4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.*”

Rev 20:12, “*And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.*”

Rev 19:9, “*And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.*”

We will have special services on the first day, Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, and following services the Sabbath of the 25<sup>th</sup>, you are all invited to one of our famous “steak cookouts”. We will have the final holy day worship service of the fall festival season on the last day, that Great Day of The Feast, Thursday, September 30<sup>th</sup>.

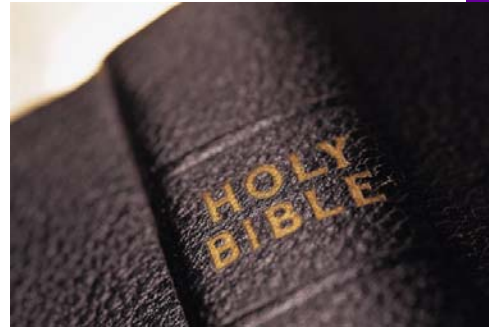
So all things are ready, come to the Feast and accept the invitation to the Lamb's marriage supper.

May God's Blessings Be Upon You,

*Jeff Booth*

Rejoice in  
the Festivals  
of God!

# His Powerful Word



## PSALM 81

Sing praises to God, our strength. Sing to the God of Jacob.<sup>2</sup> Sing! Beat the tambourine. Play the sweet lyre and the harp.<sup>3</sup> **Blow the ram's horn at new moon, and again at full moon to call a festival!**<sup>4</sup> For this is required by the decrees of Israel; it is a regulation of the God of Jacob.<sup>5</sup> He made it a law for Israel when he attacked Egypt to set us free.

I heard an unknown voice say,<sup>6</sup> "Now I will take the load from your shoulders; I will free your hands from their heavy tasks."<sup>7</sup> You cried to me in trouble, and I saved you; I answered out of the thundercloud and tested your faith when there was no water at Meribah. *Interlude*

<sup>8</sup> "Listen to me, O my people, while I give you stern warnings. O Israel, if you would only listen to me!<sup>9</sup> You must never have a foreign god; you must not bow down before a false god.<sup>10</sup> For it was I, the LORD your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it with good things.

<sup>11</sup> "But no, my people wouldn't listen. Israel did not want me around.<sup>12</sup> So I let them follow their own stubborn desires, living according to their own ideas.<sup>13</sup> Oh, that my people would listen to me! Oh, that Israel would follow me, walking in my paths!<sup>14</sup> How quickly I would then subdue their enemies! How soon my hands would be upon their foes!<sup>15</sup> Those who hate the LORD would cringe before him; they would be doomed forever.<sup>16</sup> But I would feed you with the finest wheat. I would satisfy you with wild honey from the rock."

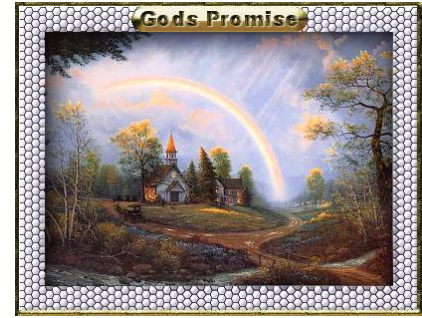
Psalms 81:1-16 (NLT)

(See page 14)

# God's 'Yes' to Life

Whatever God has promised gets stamped with the Yes of Jesus. In him, this is what we preach and pray, the great Amen, God's Yes and our Yes together, gloriously evident.<sup>21</sup> God affirms us, making us a sure thing in Christ, putting his Yes within us.<sup>22</sup> By his Spirit he has stamped us with his eternal pledge—a sure beginning of what he is destined to complete.

—2 Cor 1:20-22 (MSG)



**“ . . . I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows). . . . I am the Good Shepherd. . . .”**

John 10:10-11 (AMP)

In the Old Testament, God is called the Shepherd of His people ([Pss. 23:1](#); [80:1-2](#); [Ecc. 12:11](#); [Isa. 40:11](#); [Jer. 31:10](#)). Jesus is this to His people, and He came to give **His life for** their benefit (cf. [John 10:14, 17-18](#); [Gal. 1:4](#); [Eph. 5:2, 25](#); [Heb. 9:14](#)). He is also the “Great Shepherd” ([Heb. 13:20-21](#)) and “the Chief Shepherd” ([1 Peter 5:4](#)). Jesus gives **life in all its fullness** to his sheep.

This speaks of the gift of divine, eternal life, a life which becomes the possession of every believer for now and for eternity. Jesus would provide his sheep with this eternal life, and it would cost him his own life.

[Psalm 23](#) It is David's Heavenly Pastoral; a surpassing ode, which none of the daughters of music can excel. The clarion of war here gives place to the pipe of peace, and he who so lately bewailed the woes of the Shepherd tunefully rehearses the joys of the flock. Sitting under a spreading tree, with his flock around him, like Bunyan's shepherd boy in the Valley of Humiliation, we picture David singing this unrivalled pastoral with a heart as full of gladness as it could hold; or, if the psalm be the product of his after years, we are sure that his soul returned in contemplation to the lonely water brooks which rippled among the pastures of the wilderness, where in early days she had been wont to dwell. This is the pearl of psalms whose soft and pure radiance delights every eye; a pearl of which Helicon need not be ashamed, though Jordan claims it. Of this delightful song it may be affirmed that its piety and its poetry are equal, its sweetness and its spirituality are unsurpassed. —Treasury of David, The/ Spurgeon



Learn the **unforced rhythms of grace**. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly." ~ Jesus. Matt 11:28-30 (MSG) / Indeed, every one of us has shared in his riches - there is a grace in our lives because of his grace. John 1:14 (Phillips NT)

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# GraceRhythms

## GraceRhythms



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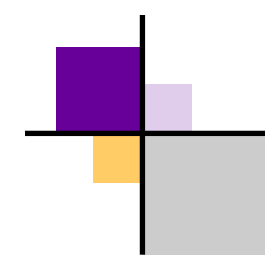
A cheerful disposition is good for your health; gloom and doom leave you bone-

**PAUL, TO CHURCHES IN GALATIA:** I can't believe your fickleness—how easily you have turned traitor to him who called you by the grace of Christ by embracing a variant message! . . . Do you think I speak this strongly in order to manipulate crowds? Or curry favor with God? Or get popular applause? If my goal was popularity, I wouldn't bother being Christ's slave. Know this—I am most emphatic here, friends—this great Message I delivered to you is not mere human optimism. I didn't receive it through the traditions, and I wasn't taught it in some school. I got it straight from God, received the Message directly from Jesus Christ. . . . Later, when Peter came to Antioch, I had a face-to-face confrontation with him because he was clearly out of line. Here's the situation. Earlier, before certain persons had come from James, Peter regularly ate with the non-Jews. But when that conservative group came from Jerusalem, he cautiously pulled back and put as much distance as he could manage between himself and his non-Jewish friends. That's how fearful he was of the conservative Jewish clique that's been pushing the old system of circumcision. Unfortunately, the rest of the Jews in the Antioch church joined in that hypocrisy so that even Barnabas was swept along in the charade. But when I saw that they were not maintaining a steady, straight course according to the Message, I spoke up to Peter in front of them all: "If you, a Jew, live like a non-Jew when you're not being observed by the watchdogs from Jerusalem, what right do you have to require non-Jews to conform to Jewish customs just to make a favorable impression on your old Jerusalem cronies?" We Jews know that we have no advantage of birth over "non-Jewish sinners." We know very well that we are not set right with God by rule-keeping but only through personal faith in Jesus Christ. How do we know? We tried it—and we had the best system of rules the world has ever seen! Convinced that no human being can please God by self-improvement, we believed in Jesus as the Messiah so that we might be set right before God by trusting in the Messiah, not by trying to be good. Have some of you noticed that we are not yet perfect? (No great surprise, right?) And are you ready to make the accusation that since people like me, who go through Christ in order to get things right with God, aren't perfectly virtuous, Christ must therefore be an accessory to sin? The accusation is frivolous. If I was "trying to be good," I would be rebuilding the same old barn that I tore down. I would be acting as a charlatan. What actually took place is this: I tried keeping rules and working my head off to please God, and it didn't work. So I quit being a "law man" so that I could be God's man. Christ's life showed me how, and enabled me to do it. I identified myself completely with him. Indeed, I have been crucified with Christ. My ego is no longer central. It is no longer important that I appear righteous before you or have your good opinion, and I am no longer driven to impress God. Christ lives in me. The life you see me living is not "mine," but it is lived by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I am not going to go back on that. Is it not clear to you that to go back to that old rule-keeping, peer-pleasing religion would be an abandonment of everything personal and free in my relationship with God? I refuse to do that, to repudiate God's grace. If a living relationship with God could come by rule-keeping, then Christ died unnecessarily. Christ has set us free to live a free life. So take your stand! Never again let anyone put a harness of slavery on you. I am emphatic about this. The moment any one of you submits to circumcision or any other rule-keeping system, at that same moment Christ's hard-won gift of freedom is squandered. . . . When you attempt to live by your own religious plans and projects, you are cut off from Christ, you fall out of grace. Meanwhile we expectantly wait for a satisfying relationship with the Spirit. For in Christ, neither our most conscientious religion nor disregard of religion amounts to anything. What matters is something far more interior: faith expressed in love. . . . For everything we know about God's Word is summed up in a single sentence: Love others as you. But what happens when we live God's way? He brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard—things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity. We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people. We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments, not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely.

~ Eugene Peterson on Galatians (excerpts from *The Message*, chapters 1, 2, 5)



SPONTANEITY WAS THE CHARM THAT DEFINED FIDGEVILLE TEMPLE'S SUCCESS





Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life. Prov 4:23 (NIV)

IT'S ABOUT TIME! That illusive aspect of our lives compared to sand trickling through the so-called hour glass.

We mark our calendars and make our notations in To Do lists. We set our alarms clocks and frequently bend our wrists to check the time. We set our appointments, or have someone else dictate them to us. We set our cruise controls to go a certain amount of miles per hour, or ponder the ads that tout zero to sixty in X# seconds.

Time. Chained to it as prisoners or freed by its offer of order and structure in our lives?

In 1992 I had the privilege of meeting Gordon MacDonald, author of "Ordering Your Private World." I have highlighted and marked numerous points in this excellent book. Here are a few:

- Memo to the Disorganized: If my private world is in order, it is because I have begun to seal the "time leaks" and allocate my productive hours in the light of my capabilities, my limits, and my priorities.
- If we are to command our time, we will have

to bite the bullet and say a firm but courteous no to opportunities that are good but not the best.

- If my private world is in order, it will be because I am convinced that the inner world of the spiritual must govern the outer world of activity.
- I have selected four spiritual exercises of fundamental importance, exercises that I find many Christians neglecting. They are: the pursuit of *solitude and silence*; regular *listening to God*; the experience of *reflection and meditation*; and *prayer as worship and intercession*.
- If my private world is in order, it will be because I have chosen to press Sabbath peace into the rush and routine of my daily life in order to find the rest God prescribed for Himself and all of humanity.

Well, I see by the clock on my computer that I need to wrap this up. See you next time. ■  
(See page 9)



Sinclair Harding's H1



God is in the  
Small Stuff

by Bruce & Stan

Chapter 32

Relationships Take Time

One hundred years ago our society was influenced greatly by the farm culture. That lifestyle was slower. There was a season for planting, a season for growing, and a season for harvesting. There was a natural pattern and timetable for living which couldn't be rushed.

Today we live in a technological society where things can't happen fast enough. Everything is instant—from oatmeal to news. Everything is fast—from food to faxes. We even get frustrated when it takes a few extra milliseconds for the computer to warm up. Our society is characterized by words like: "over-nite", "drive-thru", and "log-on". We get impatient with anything that takes time.

There is one aspect of life which cannot be rushed—building a meaningful relationship with another person. . . .

- There are many areas in your life that require constant maintenance: your yard, your garage, your house, your relationships.
- When someone does something good for you, never forget it.
- When you do something good for someone else, let it go immediately.
- Be quick to receive the truth, and even quicker to dismiss gossip.
- Be a peacemaker.
- You can tell a little about a person by what he says about himself.
- You can tell a lot about a person by what others say about him.
- You can tell even more by what he says about others.

- Ask questions.
- A smile is your most important accessory.
- Examine your life for the faults you find most irritating in others.
- Commit yourself to projects; dedicate yourself to people.
- Spend more of your time, energy, and resources investing in people than you do investing in things.
- Associate with people who lift you up.
- Disassociate with people who pull you down.
- Seek out quiet people. They have a lot to say.

Don't just pretend that you love others. Really love them . . . Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.

~ Romans 12:9-10, NLT