



The Trumpet

Trinity Baptist Church

Volume 7, Issue 6

From the Pastor's Heart

The following is an article by Jim Elliff for your prayerful consideration -

“The Family, in Perspective”

One of the fascinating things about the New Testament's teaching on family life is that so little is actually said.

We all know that the family is the major component of any society and that its failure is a failure of the whole of society and the sign of its eventual demise. We can hardly imagine that the New Testament writers understood familial essentiality any differently than we do. Yet, with this knowledge, they chose, or we may say that the Holy Spirit chose, to put only little in terms of space devoted to the family itself.

What is said is enough, of course, to guide us. There are the passages that speak of the order of the home, the authority and submission necessary for its proper function. The obedience of children is seen in two or three places. Husbands must love their wives and father's must discipline their children. And a word about submission to unreasonable husbands has its place. This is about it. One could put the New Testament's words specifically concerning family matters on about two pages, if that.

The verses God gives us on family life are enough to demand our complete attention. Sermons should be preached on these passages. The verses should be used for counseling others. Classes and seminars may justifiably be arranged for the promotion of what they teach us. And, if the society is weak in this issue (or for that matter, any other area of discipleship), then it is reasonable that they receive our immediate concentration.

So, what is the point of my mentioning the scarcity of verses on family life? It is for this reason: to point out that the way to be a good husband and father and a good wife and mother, or a good child—to actually please God in this—is more about being a conscientious follower of Christ in general than about any specific code of behavior related to the family itself.

For instance, if a man is kind in his home, not cranky or disagreeable or argumentative, then the family will be a much more peaceful place. If a child lives lovingly toward the other members of the family, just as he is commanded to do towards all people, then the home may have rest from many tensions. If the wife will forgive the husband for his faults, then there is hope for harmony. There is nothing in what I've said that is not expected of every Christian; indeed this is to be the fruit of every Christian. Yet, for your family itself, in your particular situation, such simple admonitions may pro-

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“So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.”

~Deuteronomy 8:3

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June 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 	2 	3 	4 	5	6 	7
8 	9 	10	11 	12 	13	14
15	16 	17	18 	19	20	21 
22 	23	24 	25	26	27 	28
29	30 					

Schedule of Events

PLAN AHEAD!!!
 PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDAR:
 July 4, 2008
 Independence Day Fellowship
 More Info to come!



Anniversaries

2 June
 Joe & Charlotte Hansen
 36 years

12 June
 Nathan & Janet Wilemon
 9 years

16 June
 John & Lisa McLean
 24 years

18 June
 James & Cathy Melancon
 15 years

21 June
 James & Jane Creighton
 5 years

30 June
 Thomas & Evie Johnson
 7 years

1 June
 Jacob Hough

2 June
 Emma Bennett

3 June
 Robb Ward

4 June
 Evie Johnson
 Patrick Lanning

6 June
 Mary Hansen

8 June
 Caroline Wilemon
 Luke Wilemon

9 June
 Glenda Bernard

11 June
 Barry LeBlanc

22 June
 Philip Chandler
 Caroline Hirsch

24 June
 Bryan Johnson

27 June
 Daniel Stepke



Niksic News

Dear Brethren,

Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus from Niksic, Montenegro.

The months have flown by since our last update in early February. Here are some recent activity highlights and prayer requests:

Easter

This past weekend (Apr. 27), we celebrated Easter as Montenegro follows the Orthodox calendar. We had a special Easter message for both services and there were new visitors in the morning service: Ljubinka and her two children. They showed great interest in the sermon and returned for the evening service. They were in town visiting a relative--on the coast where they live, there is no evangelical work. We are encouraging her to travel to Kotor for the meetings there and will try to have those ministering in Kotor visit her family. Please pray that God would help them to understand His Word as they read it on their own, and for opportunities for believers to visit them regularly.

Children's Ministry

In the past month, we have seen a regular attendance of children (4-6 children, ages 6-12) from nonbelieving homes coming with a parent or other relative. To minister to them, we have started up a Sunday School for them. Please pray particularly for Mileva Markovic as she has a heart for reaching these children and is taking an active part in the SS program.

Vesko

Vesko has been coming to meetings and church-sponsored events for about two months. He often brings his children with him, hence our new Sunday School. To date, his wife has not come to any meeting or event. Please pray for his conversion, for godly leadership in the home, for his wife and children's salvation.

New Believers

We have two new, young believers, Go-

ran and Nebojsa (pronounced: Neh-boy-sha), both young men in their twenties. They have both had turbulent pasts, became believers through a Christian help center in Belgrade, and have returned to Niksic. They have not been believers for very long, but appear to have credible testimonies. Please pray for them to integrate into the fellowship, to rapidly grow in their understanding of God's Word, for continued strength to deal with the consequences of past actions.

Home Bible Study

We have begun a home Bible study in the home of Ratko and Ana Nikovic. They attended our meetings before the birth of the first daughter, but since her birth, have felt unable to come for a myriad of cultural reasons. We offered them an opportunity of meeting in their home for informal Bible study for a set period of time and they were positively delighted. Please pray that their many questions would be answered, that God would reveal Himself to them, and for clarity of understanding regarding some Orthodox Church practices which are contrary to God's will. This study is a particular joy as we've been wanting to do something like this for years and are now doing it. When we finish the set time with Anna and Ratko we are hoping that they will be able to rejoin our worship services and we want to do some more "neighborhood Bible studies" to reach out to others--please pray for this.

Work of Mercy

During these Easter/May Day holidays, the church sponsored a work of mercy in helping the Simunovic family with much-needed maintenance on their village property. Fences were repaired, walls fortified, trees planted and more.

Hospitality House in Action:

During the past month, we kept busy using our house as it is intended, providing hospitality for a number of people, including missionaries from Hungary, Serbia, Norway, Albania, Italy, Germany, and the US. Please pray

particularly for a young couple named Rodney and Lindsey who are planning to go on the mission field with their young children in a year's time--they are trying to discern God's calling to location, feeling a tug to Montenegro as well as to Albania and Jamaica.

Kotor update

The small band of believers in Kotor, a city on the coast of Montenegro, has looked to us, the Niksic Fellowship, for leadership. We currently send someone twice a month on average to lead a Sunday service--the other Sundays are led by Eric Gruetzmacher, a like-minded Christian on the coast in another city. Please pray that God would provide/raise up more workers and, DV, a pastor for these brothers and sisters in Christ.

Building update

Our new landlord increased the rent in September and wanted to raise it again in January. We were not in a position to pay the further increase, so we reduced the amount of space that we rented. The landlord has since been able to rent out the space that we previously occupied to a small pastry bakery. In order to increase the attractiveness of the business space, the landlord has taken down the huge hedge--this makes the building more visible from the street. We've had some initial discussion with the landlord about putting up a sign for the church and he showed some understanding, but said that we would discuss it after the hedge came down--now is the time so please pray. Although we are continuing in our current location, please continue to pray for a new, permanent solution. We had initially hoped that we would be able to quickly find a solution, but getting into a facility of our own is going to take longer, both to find the right place and to have sufficient funds. We have opened up a special building fund account at the bank and several donations have been deposited.

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HEY KIDS (adults, too)- Can you find the words of the scripture verse given in the following word search? Look up, down, diagonally, backwards, across— every direction. Circle each word in the diagram and then circle the same word in the verse once you have found it.

“But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.”
(1 John 2:5)

B U H W H O E V E B K E E P Z H I C W O R H I S T R U L
T H A O F L P O V E O V G O P I S P E R F E C T E G H I
B Y T H A T C H W A R B L E H I M K S N O A H L Y D I A
Q W E R T Y U I H O P Y A S T H I S E D F G H J K L Z X
C H A R L E S M O S E R I S T H E G R E A T E S T D A D
C V B L N W E M E Q W T R U L Y E E R T P E R F E C T E
A S W O R D D F V G H J B K L W E I S M N S V D E T G H
I L O V E C A R E H A R L E I N K S M O R E T H A N A N
Y T H E I N G A R Q I N E G O D F I S H C O F F H I M E
K N O W E N P E R F E C T E D B O L O G N A M U Z Z Y R

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Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you, and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith. (2 Thesalonias 3.1-2)

In Him,
Stan and Vicki Surbatovich, Niksic Fellowship

Pastor Stan Surbatovich and his family
are missionaries to Niksic, Montenegro
(one of two republics in Yugoslavia).
For more information on Yugoslavia Mission:
Stanisa Surbatovich & Family
stanisas@cg.yu

Though seen
through many a tear,
Let not my star of hope
grow dim or disappear.

Twelve Rules for Raising Delinquent Children

Begin with infancy to give the child everything he wants. In this way he will grow up to believe the world owes him a living.

Quarrel frequently in the presence of your children. In this way they won't be so shocked when the home is broken up later.

When he picks up bad words, laugh at him. This will make him think he's cute.

Give the child all the spending money he wants. Never let him earn his own.

Never give him any spiritual training. Wait until he is twenty-one and then let "him decide for himself".

Satisfy his every craving for food, drink, and comfort. See that his every sensual

desire is gratified.

Avoid the use of "wrong". He may develop a guilt complex. This will condition him to believe later, when he is arrested, that society is against him and he is being persecuted.

Let him read any printed material, and listen to any music he can get his hands on. Be careful that the silverware and drinking glasses are sterilized, but let his mind feast on garbage.

Pick up everything he leaves lying around. Do everything for him so that he will be experienced in throwing all responsibility on others.

When he gets into real trouble, apologize to yourself by saying, "I could never do anything with him."

Take his part against neighbors, teachers, and policemen. They are all prejudiced against your child.

Prepare for a life of grief. You will likely have it.

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

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it (Proverbs 22:6).

Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord (Colossians 3:20).

Congratulations Kimberly Weido on your graduation and for receiving the Presidential Award for Academic Achievement

Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own understanding.

In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.

-Proverbs 3:5-6



I will learn from the defeats
as well as the triumphs
on my journey
Because from this day forward,
there are no limits
to what I can achieve.

"This year, or this month,
or, more likely, this very day,
we have failed
to practice ourselves
the kind of behavior
we expect from other people."

--The Case for Christianity
by C.S. Lewis

The Jewelry of the Bible

Octavius Winslow

The promises of God are the jewelry of the Bible!

Every page of the sacred volume is rich and sparkling with these divine assurances of Jehovah's love, faithfulness, and power towards His people.

Upon no spot in this wilderness can the Christian plant his foot, strange and untrodden though that path may be, but a gem from this casket meets his eye, the sight of which inspires his heart with confidence, his spirit with comfort, his soul with hope!

Imagine what would have been the condition of God's children apart from the divine promises of which the blessed volume is so full. What must have been the desolateness, the sadness, and the sinking, had we not the divine assurances of God's Word to rely on; by which we are guided in our march heavenward, are upheld in weakness, cheered in depression, and conducted step by step to final blessedness.

The promises are comprehensive in their character, and adapted to all the varied circumstances of our individual history. Child of God, you cannot conceive of any condition in which you may be placed, any circumstance by which you may be surrounded, any sorrow by which you may be depressed, any perils that may confront you, any darkness that may overshadow you, or any needs that you may have; in which you may not find some precious promises of His blessed Word

that meets your case!

The promises of Scripture are exceedingly precious because they are all signed and sealed with the heart's blood of Jesus! They are the throbbings of the infinite love of Jesus! The promises are but echoes of His heart sounding from each page of the sacred volume!

If you are sin burdened or sorrow stricken, just stretch forth your hand and receive these precious jewels as they flow out from the open casket of God's Word!

The promises have stanching may a bleeding wound.

The promises have dried many a falling tear.

The promises have calmed many a disturbed mind.

The promises have guided your feet through many a labyrinth.

The promises have shed light on many a lonely path.

The promises, like voices of music, have broken sweetly on many a dreary night of weeping and woe.

We have these rich clusters of precious promises bending down from the Tree of Life!

We may pluck them at all times, in all seasons, and under all circumstances!

Continued from page 1

vide the "silver bullet," bringing hope for a remarkable family recovery.

Here then might be a good place to start—applying a general command to the home:

Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you (Ephesians 4:31-32)

There is enough in these two verses to radically transform your home. Believing families, who have been given the source for all love in the Spirit who indwells them, can do what this verse commands. And, it might surprise you what joy can return to the home if these very verses are obeyed.

I'm already feeling guilty, of course. Often I transgress this law of love. What a disagreeable person I can be when I am self-focused. But there is hope. Like exercise, you and I will have no benefits from any such truths, unless they are practiced—rather obeyed—and, with a spirit of joy and trust in the Spirit's power. And when obeyed, the benefits of such obedience brings should drive you to more.

These verses are a family seminar in a capsule. Conscientiously memorize and practice these potent words and you will benefit perhaps more than if you had spilled your soul to a counselor. If counselors are reading this, I expect they would say, "Yes!" to all I have just said.

OK, I know that some people are too far diminished in their marriage to cope with each other well. Some have particularly difficult issues to deal with that demand expert help. I also know that simple statements about loving each other seem not to be enough. But these words are not just any words, and they are not trite—they are God's own plan for getting along. Even the first century apostles had to live by these admonitions. If Paul himself were your counselor, he would point you to this same set of commands. And, remember again, you who are true Christians can obey them.

In Christ' love,

Pastor Chris

The Great Attraction

C.H. Spurgeon

Christ dying for sinners is the great attraction of Christianity!

Since men will not come to him, the crucified Savior becomes himself the attraction to men. He casts out from himself bands of love and cords of gracious constraint, and binding these around human hearts, he draws them to himself by an invincible constraint of grace.

Sinners by nature will not come to Jesus, though his charms might even attract the blind, and arouse the dead. They will not melt, though surely such beauties might dissolve the adamant, and kindle affection in rock of ice.

But Jesus has a wondrous power about him to woo and win the sons of men. Out of his heart proceed chains of gold by which he binds thousands of willing captives to himself.

Many a heart has been so charmed with his love, that it has run to Christ, drawn by the silken bonds of love.

Jesus is the universal attraction, the attraction to which all hearts must yield when he draws effectually by his grace.

The attraction of the Crucified One has bound them to the cross forever!

The gracious Spirit has moved many tender hearts first to pity, and afterwards to love the bleeding Lamb.

What a melting power there is in Gethsemane! Can you view the bloody sweat drops, as they fall upon the frozen soil, and not feel that, in some degree, invisible but irresistible cords are drawing you to Jesus?

Can you see him flagellated in Pilate's hall, every thong of the scourge tearing the flesh from his shoulders? Can you see him as they spit into his lovely face, and mar his blessed visage, and not feel as if you could fain fall down and kiss his feet, and make yourself forever his servant?

And, lastly, can you behold him hanging upon the hill of Golgotha to die- can you mark him as his soul is there overwhelmed with the wrath of God, with the bitterness of sin, and with a sense of utter desertion- can you sit down and watch him there and not be attracted to him?

True Christian Love

A.W. Pink

Love is the Queen of the Christian graces.

It is a holy disposition given to us when we are born again by God. It is the love of God shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. True spiritual love is characterized by meekness and gentleness, yet it is vastly superior to the courtesies and kindnesses of the flesh.

We must be careful not to confuse human sentimentality, carnal pleasantries, human amiability and affability with true spiritual love.

The love God commands, first to Himself and then to others, is not human love. It is not the indulgent, self-seeking love which is in us by nature. If we indulgently allow our children to grow up with little or, no Scriptural discipline, Proverbs plainly says we do not love them, regardless of the human sentimentality and affection we may feel for them.

Love is not a sentimental pampering of one another with a loose indifference as to our walk and obedience before the Lord.

Glossing over one another's faults to ingratiate ourselves in their esteem is not spiritual love.

The true nature of Christian love is a righteous principle which seeks the highest good of others.

It is a powerful desire to promote their welfare.

The exercise of love is to be in strict conformity to the revealed will of God.

We must love in the truth.

Love among the brethren is far more than an agreeable society where views are the same. It is loving them for what we see of Christ in them, loving them for Christ's sake.

The Lord Jesus Himself is our example.

He was not only thoughtful, gentle, self-sacrificing and patient, but He also corrected His mother, used a whip in the Temple, severely scolded His doubting disciples, and denounced hypocrites.

True spiritual love is above all faithful to God and uncompromising towards all that is evil.

We cannot declare, 'Peace and Safety' when in reality there is spiritual decay and ruin!

True spiritual love is very difficult to exercise because it is not our natural love. By nature we would rather love sentimentally and engender good feelings. Also many times true spiritual love is not received in love, but is hated as the Pharisees hated it.

We must pray that God will fill us with His love and enable us to exercise it without dissimulation toward all.

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Proclaiming the sovereign grace of God
through faith in Jesus Christ alone.



PLACE
STAMP
HERE

The Flowers in the Lord's Garden

J.C. Ryle

"Peter and the other disciple ran to the tomb to see. The other disciple outran Peter and got there first. He stooped and looked in and saw the linen cloth lying there, but he didn't go in. Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside."

John 20:3-6

We are taught in these verses, that there are widely different temperaments in different believers.

This is a point which is curiously brought out in the conduct of Peter and John, when Mary told them that the Lord's body was gone. We are told that they both ran to the sepulcher; but John, the disciple whom Jesus loved, outran Peter, and reached the empty grave first. Then comes out the difference between the two men. John, of the two more gentle, quiet, tender, reserved, retiring, deep feeling,

stooped down and looked in, but went no further. Peter, more hot, and zealous, and impulsive, and fervent, and forward, cannot be content without going down into the sepulcher, and actually seeing with his own eyes.

Both, we may be sure, were deeply attached to our Lord. The hearts of both, at this critical juncture, were full of hopes, and fears, and anxieties, and expectations, all tangled together.

Yet each behaves in his own characteristic fashion.

We need not doubt that these things were intentionally written for our learning. Let us learn, from the case before us, to make allowances for wide varieties in the inward character of believers. To do so will save us much trouble in the journey of life, and prevent many an uncharitable thought.

Let us not judge brethren harshly, and set them down in a low place, because they do not see or feel things exactly as we see and feel, and because things do not affect or strike them just as they affect and strike us.

The flowers in the Lord's garden are not all of one color and one scent, though they are all planted by one Spirit.

The subjects of His kingdom are not all exactly of one tone and temperament, though they all love the same Savior, and are written in the same book of life.

The Church of Christ has some in its ranks who are like Peter, and some who are like John; and a place for all, and a work for all to do. Let us love all who love Christ in sincerity, and thank God that they love Him at all.

The great thing is to love Jesus!