

2002 Proclaimer

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, .. to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord!" - Isa. 61:1-2

A teaching and exhortation medium by members of the Carmichael Church of Christ, meeting at 6044 Sutter Ave. Carmichael, CA 95608

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January 6th, 2002

Suggested Activities for Young Families

By Warren E. Berkley

It seems to be a natural thing for opinions and impressions to be exchanged between generations. I thought my parents were mighty "old fashioned" in some of their ways, though I now recognize the value of their way of life. Likewise, my children are often amused by some of my habits. True to this generational exchange, I entertain concerns about the younger generation today. I humbly offer these thoughts as "highly recommended activities" for those who seek Him.

1. Pray and read the Bible with your children every day. If you are too busy to do this, you are too busy! Family devotional time is necessary, never does harm, will help everyone involved and always pleases God. If you haven't been doing this, give up all your excuses, change your schedule and start tomorrow. Parents and children must be grounded in God's Word. The results of family devotional time will be immediate and future. Would you skip a day feeding your children physical food? *"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God!"* (**Matt 4:4, Deut 8:3**).

2. Have a family from the local church into your home. Social hospitality among Christians was common in earlier times, but seems to be

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rare today. There is great value in forming close friendships with good families. It is not only enjoyable and memorable, it affords a great opportunity to exchange encouragement and good influence. One good result is - when good families become acquainted and form a bond, it always strengthens the local church.

3. Fix a meal for someone, and involve the kids (Matt. 25:35). There are many opportunities to watch for: someone has a hectic day with a doctor's appointment, home from surgery, just back in town from a funeral, major house repair or construction, birth, family member in the hospital, etc. Call the recipient, ask what time they usually have dinner and what they like to eat, then involve your kids in the project. (The author likes a light salad, baked potato, chicken casserole and a dozen cowboy cookies! - (You can Insert Your Favorite Fun Menu for a great family affair!).

4. Make the Wednesday evening and Sunday evening services a priority. These are opportunities for worship, Bible study, more good influence for your children and a time to encourage others in what is good. Whatever your past habits have been, give up all the excuses - show up and put it in your schedule! You wouldn't let your children skip a class in school! Don't teach them to do this when the local church meets (**Prov. 22:6**).

5. Take the whole family and visit a nursing home once a month

(Matt. 25:36)! At first, this may not sound like a great family outing, but I believe you'll change your mind about that. First, there are many who reside in nursing homes who receive few visitors, even from family members. They will light up with joy when you attend to them and show your love for them. Second, you will find yourself both entertained and edified by the recollections of senior citizens who worked hard and sacrificed in order for us to have the America we enjoy today. These homes are filled with war heroes, people who survived the depression, good people who have raised families and Christians who have fought the good fight. Be sure you take your children! Expose them to the wisdom of age (Job 12:12), and teach them to express their love and gratitude through gifts, time and attention. (In almost every local church, those who keep up with the saints can inform you of Christians now confined. Get the list and go see them.)

Young Christian families should assemble with the saints on Sunday morning, give generously of their means and do all the other things not mentioned in this article. I pray you will consider the value of adding these activities to your life.

*Warren E. Berkley
Pharr, Texas*

It seemed the first half of our lives was controlled by our parents, but now can it be that the second half is controlled by our children?

YOU'RE UPSET ABOUT WHAT!?!?

by Greg Gwin

The story is told (supposedly true) of a dairy farmer who complained to government officials about changing from standard time to daylight savings time. His concern? He was certain that his cows were not producing as much milk because they were losing an hour of sleep each night! Another farmer is said to have complained because his crops were suffering from the heat produced by an extra hour of sunlight every day!

If these stories are true, they surely illustrate that folks can get upset over the most amazing and illogical things. Our experience has demonstrated that some pretty amazing items can also disturb church members. We've known of people who got really "heated-up" over a sermon, or by a decision of the elders. Others have gotten "ill" as a result of something said by a Bible class teacher. And we've heard of some that were really "hurt" because they felt they were offended or slighted by another Christian. And, more often than not, when some checking and clarification is sought, it is discovered that there was nothing done to deserve such a reaction. It was simply a misunderstanding. When logic and common sense prevail, many such episodes can be quickly resolved. Now, we're not saying that preachers never make mistakes; that elders are flawless in judgment; that Bible class teachers are always correct in everything; or that Christians don't sometimes act rude or unfriendly. What we are

saying is that we all need to be "long-suffering, forbearing one another in love; endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (**Eph 4:2-3**). Let's be careful in our dealings with one another. Check things out. Patiently seek clarification. Doing this will keep us on the right track. Think about it!

-- Greg Gwin - Columbia, TN
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THESE NEED OUR PRAYERS:

Edith Ayers Sue Claiborne
Helen Gray Roger Lehman Willa Lockett
Clifford Marshall John & Norma Romine
Barbara Sterling Evie Westphal

ALSO REMEMBER THESE:

Dan Singleton as he preaches about
Vern & Lucille Wilson in Redding
Tina Ayers in Minnesota till next Sunday
All those who have been visiting with us
who head back to their homes

PLEASE PRAY FOR THESE, AND OUR NATIONAL LEADERS, AND OTHERS AS YOU ARE AWARE OF THEIR NEEDS.

To err is human; to blame it on somebody else is even more human. --*John Nadeau*

Most people want to be delivered from temptation, but would like it to keep in touch!

Φυν ισ α γοοδ τηινγ βυτ ονλ
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ερ.

"IF YOU ONLY KNEW..."

As we observe in Scripture how Jesus interacted with people, it becomes quickly evident that He treated each person in a unique way. He observed the unique qualities of the individuals. He began at the level of the individual and provided a way for that person to find God (**IF** he/she was willing).

There were at least three reasons why, according to the Jews, Jesus should not have had any interaction with one particular woman (see **John 4:1-42**).

For one thing, she was a Samaritan. The Jews had no dealings with the Samaritans (**John 4:9**). This is the reason why the woman was surprised when Jesus asked her to draw some water for him to drink from Jacob's well.

The second reason why Jesus, according to the Jews, should not have been talking with this woman was because she was a woman. When Jesus' disciples came back from town, "*they marveled that He talked with a woman*" (**John 4:27**). Why did they marvel? This just wasn't done among the strict Jewish leaders! The strict Jewish Rabbis (teachers) forbade a Rabbi to greet a woman in public.

The third reason why the Jews thought Jesus should not have been conversing with this woman was because of her character. In the course of their conversation, Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here" (**John 4:16**). The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have well said, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly" (John 4:18). Her broken marriages and her live-in boyfriend sorely revealed her broken heart as well as her broken reputation.

Yet, despite these reasons, Jesus spoke to this woman. He spoke to her because He wanted to give her something that she des-

perately needed, even though she was unaware of the nature of the gift.

Observe carefully Jesus' words to this woman of a despised race, slighted gender and immoral character:

"If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water" (John 4:10).

"If you only knew THE GIFT of God..." The woman, at first, had no idea of the magnitude of the gift that Jesus wanted to give her. He called it, "**living water.**" This signified life – a new life and eternal life (**John 4:13-14**). This gift of God was made available through Jesus; He was and is the source of "**living water.**"

"If you only knew ... WHO IT IS who says to you, 'Give Me a drink.'" This man who dared to speak to this woman was none other than the glorious Son of God. Yet, in all His glory and holiness, Jesus cared about this inglorious and unholy woman who needed salvation.

And, He cares about you. He wants to give you the gift that He wanted to give the Samaritan woman: **Salvation!**

Salvation is the gift of God's grace (Eph 2:8-9), BUT we must accept God's gift of salvation on His terms. We accept this gift by believing in Jesus (**Acts 16:31**), repenting of our sin (**Acts 17:30**), confessing Him before men (**Romans 10:9-10**), and being baptized for the remission of our sins (**Acts 2:38**).

For too many, life will simply end without ever knowing why it began. IF they only understood the value of the gift they forfeit. IF they only knew the identity of the One whose words they ignore or reject. This is the message the world desperately needs to hear today – and it's up to us to lovingly tell them and help them to understand - before it is eternally too late.

Unfortunately, many have not accepted His gift. **If they only knew...** Won't you accept His gift on His terms?

David A. Sargent, Mobile, Alaba